Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-094 *15 May 1990*

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Cuba

Chinese Delegation Tours Matanzas Province

FL1405154990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] A CPC delegation headed by Wen Jiabao, alternate member of the CPC Secretariat and chief of the CPC Central Committee general office, has visited Matanzas Province.

Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the PCC provincial committee in Matanzas Province, welcomed the visitors at the Varadero Touristic Enterprise.

Wen Jiabao and his delegation learned details of the pilot program of the Varadero Beach Resort, which is a development project that should have 30,000 hotel rooms on the Hicacos Peninsula by the end of the century.

The Chinese visitor acknowledged the warm welcome he has received in Cuba and stated that both the Cuban and the Chinese people have things to learn from each other. In addition, Wen Jiabao briefly referred to his nation's tasks in the construction of socialism.

Subsequently, the CPC delegation visited the Sol Palmera Hotel, which is the first hotel built by a joint capital enterprise within the Cuban touristic industry. Cubanacan Corporation and Cubanacan Joint Enterprise officials welcomed the visitors at Sol Palmera Hotel and showed them around the facilities.

Visits University of Havana

FL1405185390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] This morning, Wen Jiabao, alternate member of the CPC Politburo, visited the University of Havana. At the university campus, Jiabao met with Roberto Robaina, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the UJC [Union of Young Communists], and with Fernando Rojas, dean of the University of Havana.

At Rojas' office, Jiabao learned details of the main activities carried out by Cuban youths and was also informed about the main careers our youths are studying at the University of Havana.

Wen Jiabao, also chief of the CPC Central Committee general office, expressed interest in the history of the university and conveyed a message sent by the Chinese students to the Cuban students.

Meets With Leonel Soto

FL1505005090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Leonel Soto, vice president of the Council of Ministers, today met with the CPC delegation led by Comrade Wen Jiabao, an alternate member of the Secretariat and head of the Central Committee General Office. During the meeting, both sides exchanged information on and experiences with building socialist economies in the two countries. Soto informed them about Cuba's major economic and social development plans; particularly those in food, tourism, agriculture, the mechanical industry, and increasing exports to maintain a stable level of development.

For his part, Comrade Wen Jiabao informed the Cubans about recent economic progress in China, particularly the control of growth and rectification of some negative trends with the aim of strengthening the construction of socialism. Right now, the CPC delegation is visiting the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center in Havana.

President of UN General Assembly Meets Castro

FL1405155990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] On 10 May, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, met with Major General Joseph Garba, president of the UN General Assembly, and with the delegation accompanying Garba.

The discussions, which were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, centered around the most important, current world problems; the Third World situation; and the United Nations' role in the solution of conflicts affecting the developing countries.

Garba expressed his appreciation for the role played by Cuba in southern Africa and for Cuba's attitude toward the independence of Namibia and the security of the People's Republic of Angola.

Commander in Chief Castro recalled Cuba's friendly ties with Nigeria and Cuba's wish to further strengthen its relations with that important African country.

Castro, Brazilian Visitor Brizola Tour Expocuba

FL1405152890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 May 90

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has accompanied Leonel Brizola, president of the Brazilian Democratic Labor Party, on a tour through the Expocuba facilities in Havana.

[Begin recording] [Castro] This was built.... [changes thought] There is a restaurant here and this is the main pavillion... [Unidentified woman interrupts] Fidel I want to say hi to you.

[Castro] Come, come, come. There are a lot less people than usual here today.

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, not too many people here today.

[Castro] Let us walk around here for a while. What does this do?

[Unidentified speaker] This is a digital, universal [word indistinct] comptroller devised to verify, measure, and examine the functioning of electronic equipment. Here we have a television channel [word indistinct] of one watt. This one, for example, is showing that in Expocuba we have one [not further specified] and that in Sabanita we have the other one.

[Castro] And does it show the famous Yankee television station there?

[Unidentified speaker] No, no. [Crowd laughs]

[Castro] And what is your job here?

[Second unidentified speaker] I work in the Public Relations Department here.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] in public relations here?

[Second unidentified speaker] Yes, here.

[Castro] How many workers do we have here?

[Second unidentified speaker] Approximately 350 workers.

[Castro] The personnel roster is very rationalized here.

[Second unidentified speaker] Yes, it is very rationalized and reduced.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] this is organized [words indistinct]. What did you study?

[Second unidentified speaker] I have a bachelor's degree in history and social sciences.

[Castro] And has that career helped you in the work you are performing here?

[Second unidentified speaker] Yes, of course, especially when it comes to taking care of visiting delegations. [passage omitted]

Comment During Havana Tour

FL1405194090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Leonel Brizola, president of the Brazilian Democratic Labor Party and former Brazilian presidential candidate, toured economic and social sites in Havana City on Sunday, 13 May.

Accompanied by Castro, the Brazilian delegation visited La Guinera neighborhood, Arroyo Naranjo Municipality and two nearby family doctor clinics.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] As residents of La Guinera, we realize that what we are doing here we could not have been done without a socialist revolution like the one we have in Cuba...

[Castro interrupts] Yes, but we also need a society that works well too, because there are some societies that have not worked well.

[Unidentified speaker] But we work very well, Commander.

[Castro] We have rectified mistakes and some things that we copied incorrectly. This movement began... [changes thought] For how long have you been working here?

[Unidentified speaker] We have been working here for approximately two years and three months.

[Castro] And how many houses have you built?

[Unidentified speaker] Thus far, we have already delivered 86 houses.

[Castro] And how many are presently under construction?

[Unidentified speaker] We are building 366 houses.

[Castro] And how many people do you have in your minibrigades?

[Unidentified speaker] We have 502 minibrigade members.

[Castro] And how many housewives among them?

[Unidentified speaker] We have 225 housewives in our minibrigades and 118 of them are women. We also have 196 people who are under 30 years of age and are working with us here.

[Castro] And they had no jobs before coming to work here?

[Unidentified speaker] No, they neither worked nor studied for a number of reasons, reasons that are linked to the past. Obviously, our commander trusted us and we are transforming our neighborhood completely.

[Castro] You were sent to Bluefields?

[Second unidentified speaker] Yes. You bid me farewell right here when I left.

[Castro] Oh, and I see that you have come back all spruced up, all spruced up from Bluefields.

[Second speaker] Yes, but tomorrow you are going to see me all dirty because I am working at the construction of the Pan-American games facilities.

[Castro] Is that so? Yes, she was working at the brigade we sent to Bluefields, but we do not know what is going to happen to that brigade for the time being because we are not sure what kind of security our brigade will have there with the change in government [in Nicaragua].

[Second speaker] I wanted to tell you that I am a history teacher here.

[Castro] A history teacher. That is your job then?

[Second speaker] Yes, but I trained to become a bricklayer.

[Castro] But she works as a teacher and she is paid as a teacher.

[Second speaker] Yes, I am paid a teacher's salary, exactly. I talk to my students about the poverty and misery that exists in those countries, although it is a completely different thing to actually experience that poverty as I did there in Bluefields. It is tough. I think that many Cubans should go there to have that experience.

[Castro] And what are you going to build here?

[First speaker] We will have a big recreation park with a fountain in the middle.

[Castro] Yes, you are very interested in the family doctor and the housing program, right? [Castro speaks to the Brazilian visitor] How many people do you have in that city? [Rio de Janeiro]

[Brizola] About seven million people.

[Castro] Seven million people! It also has many shacks.

[Brizola] Yes, shacks.

[Castro] And rebuilding a shack neighborhood is a difficult task, right?

[Brizola] Oh, yes!

[Castro] It is difficult to build houses, roads, etc.

[Brizola] It is very difficult to get the people out of those houses. Their children have been born in those shacks. Many even got married there and stayed there. They have their lives there.

[Castro] People also like what they call their place, right?

[First speaker] Yes, people like their place.

[Castro] How much money would you have to invest or how many houses would you have to build to solve that problem?

[Brizola] I cannot even calculate that. We would only be able to do that if we have a program like the one you have here. Over there we describe this work as community cooperation work. But we do not have the understanding that your people have here. There is no guidance or organization. Over there the work is a little more disorganized...

[Castro interrupts] A little more individualistic...

[Brizola interrupts] No, not necessarily individualistic, but disorganized. There is collective work there. People do help each other, but there is a lack of organization. We have a lot of things to learn from what you are doing here. A lot.

Listen, of every four people in Rio de Janeiro, one lives in a shack. Of every four people you see in the streets, one lives in a shack. You cannot compare our situation with yours.

Here you have a house and if a relative comes, he moves in with the rest of the family. You have formed like nuclei. You have small nuclei or perhaps citadels, but over there we have horrible things. Of every four persons you see there, one lives in a shack. At present, approximately two million Brazilians live in shacks.

[First speaker] That situation was disposed of here a long time ago. We have perhaps two or three families living in a small house, but we do not have people living out in the streets because we have nursing homes, etc. You can see in this neighborhood, which was practically a downtrodden neighborhood...

[Brizola interrupts] Commander, you have no idea of how many people live on the streets of Rio de Janeiro. The number of children living on the streets is amazing. According to estimates made by Sao Paulo Cardinal Donaret, there are 10 million children on the streets.

[Castro] That is sad because Brazil is a wealthy and hardworking country. Wealthy and hardworking. The problem is that it has failed to organize its life in a way that will allow it to eradicate all those problems, because Brazil is a wealthy country with hardworking and intelligent people. I brought him here to see what you are doing here. We just went to Expocuba and talked about the family doctor program. I am going to take him to a family doctor clinic because I know this is one of the problems that prevails throughout Latin America. Greetings [to all the comrades].

[Third unidentified speaker] [Speaker is crying] I cannot believe you are here. This is a Mother's Day gift.

[Castro] Tell us something. Tell us how this is going.

[Third speaker] Go in and take a look. We have 870 residents.

[Castro] Eight hundred and seventy? Why so many?

[Third speaker] Because there was a problem of bad distribution there, Commander. There are other clinics that have 450 residents.

[Castro] So some have double that population.

[Third speaker] But they are not that many really. It is less than at the clinic. We can handle this well. I know our entire population. We have 10 babies, five pregnant women.

[Castro] But the average is 600 residents, right? How many pregnant women?

[Third speaker] Five.

[Castro] Not too many.

[Third speaker] Yes, we have few now because two gave birth a few days ago.

[Castro laughs] Oh, I see.

[Third speaker] We have 68 grandparents. We have a club of pregnant women and a club of youths. We give [words indistinct] to the pregnant women to prepare them for the delivery.

[Castro] What is the name of your clinic?

[Third speaker] Los Pinos.

[Castro] Is infant mortality low at Los Pinos

[Third speaker] Yes, we have one of the lowest infant mortality rates.

[Castro] In Havana.

[Third speaker] In Havana.

[Castro] And will you lower it even more?

[Third] I hope not to have a single case. In this clinic at least, we have not had a single case since we came here. [end recording]

Brizola Praises Nation, Castro at News Conference

FL1505020290 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 90

["Part" of news conference given by Brazilian Democratic Workers Party President Leonel Brizola in Havana on 14 May—recorded]

[Text] I find a nation that has matured, a government and its great leader open to dialogue with all peoples, dedicated to peace, to the rights of their people, and to development, always with a fraternal vision with respect to all the peoples of the world. This did not surprise me because since 1 January 1959, I have observed what has happened here. Having observed all these years, I can verify, I can evaluate the true leap the Cuban people are making.

Ethiopian Politburo's Alemu Abebe Begins Visit

FL1405215790 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Alemu Abebe, a member of the Politburo of the Workers Party of Ethiopia, arrived in our country last night. Jorge Risquet Valdes, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, met the distinguished visitor, who is in our country on an official visit. Alemu Abebe is also a deputy prime minister of Ethiopia and a special envoy from President Mengistu Haile Mariam, with a message for our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz.

At Jose Marti International Airport in Havana, Abebe briefly reviewed the economic, political, and social situation Ethiopia is experiencing; it is seriously affected by the consequences of drought and war. Ethiopian Ambassador to Cuba Mr. Abebe Belayneh, Cuban Ambassador to Ethiopia Comrade Antonio Perez Herrero, and Juan Carretero, an official of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, also came to meet him at the air terminal.

Electronics Cooperation Memo Signed With PRC

FL1405212590 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Future cooperation in electronics between Cuba and the People's Republic of China was established today in Beijing with a working memorandum signed by both countries. Hector Casals Simpson, vice president of the Cuban National Institute for Automated Systems and Computer Technology, and Zeng Peiyan, Chinese vice minister of machine building and electronics, represented the two countries. The Cuban delegation had traveled to Beijing to learn about the development of the Chinese electronics industry.

Dominican Republic

Jimmy Carter Arriving To Observe Elections

FL1405182290 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1645 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter will arrive in our country today to participate in the election process as an election observer.

Carter is scheduled to arrive at Las Americas International Airport at 1900 [local time] tonight. Carter will come accompanied by his wife Rosalyn Carter, his work team, and the members of his personal security.

A few days ago, one of the main advisers of former U.S. President Carter set up Carter's work agenda for his visit to our country.

Jimmy Carter will be welcomed by Professor Juan Bosch, presidential candidate for the Dominican Liberation Party, PLD, and by Paul Taylor [as heard], U.S. ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

News Broadcasts Banned 24 Hours Before Elections

FL1505122290 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1032 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] We inform our friendly listeners that due to provisions issued by the Dominican Republic Central Electoral Board, which ban the broadcast of news 24 hours before the presidential elections, we are not carrying the Radio Mil Informando newscast today.

Crowds Fill Markets; Campaign Ends at Midnight

FL1405183990 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1647 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Crowds of people are rushing into Dominican Republic supermarkets to supply themselves with food provisions. There is great expectation throughout the country regarding the upcoming Wednesday, 16 May, elections.

People are beginning to fill up Santo Domingo supermarkets to get food supplies in view of the holding of the upcoming national elections.

Various supermarkets, markets, stores, and other businesses are filled with people who are rushing in to buy various food products.

Along with the increase in commercial activities, political activism has also increased significantly in the last few hours when we are only a very few hours away from the closing of the country's election campaign, which will end at midnight tonight. The main political parties are holding various closing campaign rallies throughout Santo Domingo today.

Haiti

CATH Holds General Assembly; Observers Attend

FL1405171090 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 14 May 90

[Excerpts] [First announcer] The Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers [CATH] held a [new] general assembly over the weekend at which the members of the party [as heard] decided to expel Yves Antoine Richard from the CATH.

[Second announcer] Approximately 250 people participated in the general assembly held by Jean Auguste Mesyeux's branch of the CATH on 12-13 May at the Domond Hotel, Odeide Street, Thor 14, Carrefour. This general assembly was held to solve the crisis that has existed within CATH since last March.

A Social Affairs Ministry observer was present at this general assembly. Also present were representatives of several unions, who attended as observers. After the general assembly, Mesyeux made a statement to the press.

[Begin Mesyeux recording] [passage omitted] We also invited many foreign observers, many foreign unionists. Unfortunately, only one was present: Denis (L'Ange) of the CDMT [expansion not provided] in Martinique. The others did not come because of the airline crisis in Haiti. We hope, however, that the video will constitute proof for them that a general assembly was held democratically, a general assembly at which everyone voted freely. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mesyeux said there were not, at present, two CATH's. The workers signed a number of documents asking Yves Antoine Richard not to speak in the name of the CATH and to return all materials in his possession to the CATH. If not, they will take him to court. [passage omitted]

Press Review Highlights 'Feeling of Insecurity'

FL1405231190 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 14 May 90

[Excerpts] What is in the periodicals? This week, the main topic is the feeling of insecurity that has spread over the capital both night and day. [passage omitted]

HAITI-OBSERVATEUR says: Insecurity has now taken on a new dimension, and the Haitian Army is just standing by with folded arms, watching, impotent. [passage omitted] The paper adds: Things are worse these days at a time when the government is making efforts in the areas of both elections and cleanup of the public administration.

BALANCE points the finger directly at the Army, which remains deaf and dumb despite the fact that security is its domain. Thus the periodical asks: Could the general be making a fool of Mrs. Trouillot? Or is it a lack of political will on the part of the president. If not, why does the judiciary not track down the criminals responsible for 29 November and 11 September? Why does the Army continue to cover up for a few individuals within it that are sullying its reputation?

BALANCE says further that the Army continues to bear Papa Doc's mark and that is why soldiers today do not much care about their reputation, as their behavior over the past four years clearly demonstrates. In particular, the reforms many people were expecting after 7 February 1986 have never been carried out. Thus, the Army provides security only when it feels like it, and if there has been a resurgence of insecurity these last few weeks, one can be sure it is because there is talk of elections.

Duvalierists are holding meetings in the capital and in the provinces, at their private homes and at certain hotels. They are undoubtedly preparing themselves to

repeat 29 November—especially since they have allegedly announced that there will be no elections until the 10-year ban contained in Article 291 [of the Constitution] has expired. BALANCE concludes: The Haitian Armed Forces would have arrested the criminals if they and the government wished to, because they have these men's dossiers.

According to an analysis in HAITI-OBSERVATEUR, the provisional government is caught between two currents: those in favor of holding elections quickly and those in favor of sweeping out the house to get rid of the worst trash. As for the Army, no one knows where it stands. In any case, says HAITI-OBSERVATEUR, Mrs. Trouillot must realize she is obliged to make a choice, because to remain in the middle could be dangerous for her. [passage omitted]

The latest statement by MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti] leader Marc Bazin, in which he demanded the publication of the electoral calendar immediately or he would become angry, gave rise to comment by the papers last week. While most of the papers condemn this behavior, this week's HAITI-OBSERVATEUR applauds it and even feels all straight-thinking people should too.

HAITI EN MARCHE does not look very favorably on Mr. Clean's [Bazin's] statement to the effect that if he becomes president, he will pick everyone up and throw them into the same bag. It feels Bazin is being too nice to the macoutes.

Also, in an interview the ANDP's [National Alliance for Democracy and Progress] spokesman gave HAITI-OBSERVATEUR's Rodrigue Louis, he said the ANDP's actions were being guided by their sense of responsibility and realism. HAITI-OBSERVATEUR reports that Oliver Jackman, president of the OAS Human Rights Commission, would like to see an intervention in Haiti. After a visit to Haiti, Jackman says they just cannot let the Duvalierist macoutes totally destroy Haiti. [passage omitted]

Regarding corruption and theft, BALANCE is still talking quite a lot about the ONA [pension fund]. BALANCE comes up with increasingly greater detail on the (?way) bigshots (?make off with) the poor workers' money. [passage omitted] Four or five employees in a good position to know about all the scandalous thefts, allegedly each received $3000 to keep their mouths shut; ever since then, they have lost their tongues. Meanwhile, the disorder continues. Once again, the periodical names names, even though no one has ever yet dared to respond.

For its part, HAITI EN MARCHE reveals the theft of four airplanes from the main airfield in Port-au-Prince. The thief is reportedly the former 17 September general. Jean-Claude Duvalier reportedly bought the planes for $2 million each—a total of $8 million—to fight guerrillas. The never-used planes have allegedly been sold in Miami for a total of $2 million, whereas they cost $8 [million]. The paper says the Haitian Army (?should) cast some light on this matter. [passage omitted]

Trinidad & Tobago

New Army Camp To Facilitate Antidrug Campaign

FL1405225190 Bridgetown CANA in English 2213 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, 14 May, (CANA)—Another army base opened in Trinidad on Monday [14 May], as the government moved to help expand the defence force's role in fighting disasters and crime. Camp Cumuto became Trinidad's fourth army base, joining the main base in Chaguaramas, northwest Trinidad; Camp Ogden, also in northwest Trinidad; and a third base in Tobago.

The new army base, which is in the deserted Wallerfield area in northeast Trinidad, will be home to the 2000 strong first battalion. The camp had originally been called Fort Reid and was an American army base during World War II, but has since deteriorated into a deserted area where many wanted criminals are believed to hide out. First battalion commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Vidale, said the site still needed more improvement.

Since 1981, the first battalion has had a number of homes. It once shared the facilities at Mausica Teaching College in north Trinidad. In opening the new camp, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson said it was part of government's plans to decentralise and better equip the regiment.

"The location will facilitate more effective operations in the ongoing anti-drug campaign and in the fight against serious crime," Robinson said. He added: "It should be noted that Wallerfield has become a place of refuge for perpetrators of serious crimes and was a workshop for the demolition of stolen vehicles."

El Salvador

Cristiani Orders Inquiry Into 'Lost' Registry

PA1405161890 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 May 90 p 2

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani has ordered the Armed Forces' Command Staff to investigate the whereabouts of pages from the military academy's registration book that, allegedly, have been lost.

These pages correspond to the period during the November 1989 guerrilla offensive when six Jesuit priests and two women were murdered. According to the Fourth Penal Court, the loss of these documents could harm investigation of the case.

However, Cristiani did not assign importance to these documents. He said that the testimonies to be given by cadets, who checked persons entering and leaving the military academy during the period in question, would clear any doubts.

Cristiani stated that one of the cadets who carried out this task arrived in El Salvador to testify on 9 May; the other two cadets were to arrive on 10 May.

The president reported that he had met with White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and discussed relations between El Salvador and the United States.

"He told me that the Jesuits' murder was a lingering topic, especially with the U.S. Congress, and that they were waiting to see the results of the legal process," stated the president.

"I told him the present state of the case and procedures to follow. I also informed him that there was a great amount of speculation concerning the case," he added.

Report of FMLN Attacks, 15 Army Casualties

PA1405123090

[Editorial report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 5 May reports that, despite the presence of government forces in the area, an attack was carried out by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) on 1 May in western San Salvador against alleged fascist Army sectors. The report notes that as a result of this operation the Army suffered 15 casualties, including two officers. The report adds that two small tanks were damaged and two rifles were recovered.

On 2 May, along the Tecoluca Road, in Las Qebradas Canton, two light poles were brought down by the FMLN. In another clash, two helicopters were damaged and the FMLN forces were able to leave the area without problem, Radio Venceremos reports.

Guatemala

Representatives Appointed To Meet With Rebels

PA1505044090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0251 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 May (ACAN-EFE)—Nine secretaries general of Guatemalan political parties, among them two presidential candidates, have been appointed by the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR) to meet in Madrid, from 28 through 30 May, with the commanders of the Guatemalan guerrillas.

CNR president, Jorge Serrano Elias, today announced that the meeting in Madrid is aimed at taking the first steps in a process that, through political means, must put an end to 30 years of war in Guatemala.

In Madrid, he added, the commanders of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] and the secretaries general of the political parties will study ways to integrate the rebels into civilian life.

"The appointed representatives are the secretaries general of each of the political parties, therefore, we expect the meeting to be at the highest level," Serrano stressed. Serrano is also the presidential candidate for the Movement of Social Action (MAS).

The CNR leader said he has suggested that presidential candidates Alfonso Cabrera, of the ruling Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG), and Jorge Carpio Nicole, of the Union of the National Center (UCN), the strongest opposition force in the country, attend the meeting in Madrid.

He also suggested that Mario Solorzano, of the Democratic Socialist Party (PSD); Mario Alarcon, of the National Liberation Movement (MLN); Miguel Montepeque, of the MAS; Carlos Chavarria, of the Revolutionary Party (PR); and Renan Quinonez, of the National Renewal Party (PNR); Luis Flores, of the National Vanguard Party (PAN); Abundio Maldonado, of the National Vanguard Front (FAN); and all secretaries general of all the political parties, from the extreme right to the moderate left, attend the meeting with the URNG.

Serrano, Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, Colonel Luis Gordillo, Mario Permuth, and Teresa de Zarco, will also be members of the delegation of the CNR, the organization created in accordance with the 1987 peace agreement.

The meeting in Madrid will be the second since the Oslo meeting held in March. A third meeting with the Catholic Church and the Guatemalan private sector will be called later "for the sole purpose of ending the war through peaceful means," Serrano said.

Bolanos Reportedly To Become Defense Minister

PA1505030290 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 14 May 90 p 4

[Text] Well-informed sources have revealed that Brigadier General Juan Leonel Bolanos Chavez, who is currently the Armed Forces chief of staff, will be named defense minister effective 21 May.

Gen. Bolanos Chavez will assume this important military and government post, replacing Division General Hector Alejandro Gramajo Morales, who has completed the legal term for military service.

Gramajo will be honored with a parade at the Polytechnical School beginning at 1000 on 20 May.

Gen. Gramajo has been defense minister during the years of civilian rule under President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo.

Nicaragua

Telephone, Postal Services To Be 'Suspended'

PA1405140590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1213 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Telecommunications and post offices throughout the country will close at 1300 [1900 GMT] today, said Mario Malespin, secretary general of Telcor's [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services] labor union. Malespin said that beginning at that specified time, there will be no services anywhere in the country in an act of solidarity with the struggle of public administration workers.

If government authorities refuse to honor the achievements of state workers, telephone plants will be paralyzed tomorrow; in other words, subscriber service will be suspended, the workers' leader added.

The closure of Telcor operations means that the country will for several hours be left incommunicado at the national and international level.

Service to Presidency Cut Off

PA1405185090 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1806 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Communication between Radio Nicaragua and the Presidency has been cut off because telephone service has just been suspended. Transmission from the Presidency was suspended.

We can also report that teletype signals have been cut off as well. We are not receiving any signal here in Radio Nicaragua. Telephone numbers 7-3620, 6-0271, 7-0302, 6-4559, 7-4246, 7-0302, 6-3620, 7-5211, and 7-3767 were cut off as well. We can advise that apparently the suspension of telephone service here in Radio Nicaragua is only affecting this area because we have been monitoring other radio stations, which have call-in radio programs, and they are operating normally. A few minutes ago we listened to people calling those stations, and they are working normally.

Workers Vow To Continue Struggle

PA1505134290 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1204 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Here on the telephone are Villa Fontana Telcor workers, who want to tell the Nicaraguan people their stance with regard to the nationwide public employees' strike.

[Unidentified Telcor employee] Good morning, fellow Nicaraguan workers. We Telcor workers are here at the administrative installations of the new Telcor minister and deputy minister [as heard]. We are on strike and are ready to continue until the final consequences are reached. We are demanding the salary and revolutionary gains we have achieved through fighting and sacrifice over the past 10 years of revolution.

We want to tell the Nicaraguan people that Telcor, which was a vanguard institution during the revolutionary government, will remain at the vanguard during this time of conflict, when the Nicaraguan working class is putting everything on the line. We are telling the bourgeoisie, those drinking whiskey at the Intercontinental Hotel and places like the Montelimar resort, to start trembling because the Nicaraguan working class is on the warpath. After taking the first step, we will never stop. Free fatherland or death!

Service To Be Paralyzed

PA1505140590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1216 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] At noon [1800 GMT] today the country will be without communications, both at the national and international level. This was announced by Mario Valentin, secretary general of Telcor. Since yesterday the strike has spread throughout the country. All Telcor branches have paralyzed telephone and postal services. The labor leader made the following statement.

[Begin recording] [Valentin] We decided to completely paralyze the automated national and international communications system for Managua and inter-urban areas. We will only leave in service some telephones that will allow us to be able to coordinate the strike, but that is it. All other services will be cut off. We will start with the telephone numbers that begin with the number six. From there we will advance during the morning until the automatic service is completely paralyzed before noon.

[Reporter] Will the country be without communications by noon?

[Valentin] Yes, completely without communications. [end recording]

UNE To Continue Strike With Added Support

PA1405142590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1210 GMT 14 May 90

[Communique issued by the press secretary of the General Confederation of Public Administration Workers of the National Union of Employees, UNE, in Managua on 13 May]

[Text] The National Secretariat of the General Confederation of Public Administration Workers-UNE reports the following to all workers, local and national labor unions, federations, the Nicaraguan people, and the international community:

1. Today, 13 May 1990, we tried to achieve progress in our negotiations with Labor Minister Mr. Francisco Rosales, the delegate of Mrs. Chamorro's government. However, our demands were once again rejected.

2. Mr. Francisco Rosales threatened to use the Public Force—as in the times of Somozism and the bourgeoisie—to eject us from our work centers. In view of this, we have decided to continue our strike at all costs. Furthermore, we will expand it even more by including the participation of banking federations, Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services], the INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy], the INAA [Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute], and other sectors in the country.

Not a single step backward!
Managua, 13 May 1990
Press secretary, General Confederation of Public Administration Workers-UNE.

Other Sectors To Join Strike

PA1405141790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Despite the threat of mass dismissals and of declaring a state of emergency, the government employees' strike will continue today with the added support of other labor sectors. Labor Minister Francisco Rosales, who has been appointed presidential delegate to talks with the government employees, refused to accept the workers' demands, thereby refusing to resolve the conflict. The government employees who have occupied many worksites since 11 May turned over these areas to the authorities. However, they remain on strike.

The general strike by government employees will be strengthened today when workers from other essential sectors, such as the financial system, waterworks, power company employees, and others, join the strike.

On 13 May, following the last meeting between Labor Minister Francisco Rosales and union leaders, it was announced that the strike to demand respect for employees' rights will continue.

Silva on Chamorro's Order To Remove Strikers

PA1405130990 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1220 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] At this time we have a report from Jessie Luis Silva of the General Confederation of Public Administration Workers that the government of Violeta Chamorro has ordered that all striking workers be removed from state enterprises and ministries.

[Begin Silva recording] Good morning, brother workers. We have just been notified that the government of Violeta Chamorro has ordered the Public Force to break down the doors of the ministries and enterprises to remove our brother workers who have peacefully occupied those installations. As of now, as of this moment, we hold Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro responsible for this action.

Attention, we call on all workers. A last-minute report indicates that the government of Violeta Chamorro has ordered the removal of all our brother workers who are in the state enterprises and ministries. What does this mean? It means that we are worse off and that we have definitely reverted to the era of Somozism and the bourgeoisie. We call on our workers through this means to report to their duty stations and to close ranks. As of this moment we hold the government of Violeta de Chamorro responsible for this action. [end recording]

Presidency Workers Lift Strike

PA1405170090 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1625 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Workers at the Presidency abandoned their strike and turned over the installations to higher authorities. Mr. Danilo Lacayo, director of information and press for the Presidency, received the government building. Authorities at the Presidency told the workers that they may submit their complaints and demands to Dr. Francisco Rosales of the Labor Ministry.

Labor Minister Rosales Declares Strikes Illegal

Holds News Conference

PA1505003690 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 May 90

[News conference by Labor Minister Francisco Rosales with unidentified reporters at the Presidency Press and Information Office in Managua, moderated by Press and Information Director Danilo Lacayo—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Lacayo] ....each and every one of them, and it has been done. However, some radical groups within UNE [National Union of Employees] have been sponsoring the public employees' strike. Dr. Francisco Rosales is here to explain how it all started, what developments there have been, and what are the latest resolutions adopted by the Ministry of Labor to seek a solution to the government employees' strike.

[Rosales] Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. People of Nicaragua, we will now briefly explain how events have transpired in recent days, because there have been a series of systematic distortions and it is important for the people to be the judge of this. First of all, I wish to clearly and openly state that the Labor Ministry has never refused to negotiate with UNE or any other sector. Quite to the contrary, ever since I assumed the post I have directly contacted all the labor unions and the chambers in this country.

On 10 May I received the ATC [Association of Agricultural Workers] in my office in the morning and the CST [Sandinist Central Organization of Workers] in the afternoon. I even received Comrade Douglas Diaz that morning, who is the UNE conflict-negotiating secretary. Throughout the talks it became obvious that it was necessary to carry out large-scale negotiations which would end with a national convention of public employees.

We emphasized that it was necessary to remain calm, that we could not negotiate amid violence or pressure. Some misunderstandings were also explained. For example, the UNE said that it had come to the Presidency of the Republic to present a list of demands. It is obvious that it was wrong to present a list of demands to the Presidency of the Republic. The list of demands is submitted to the department inspector once the minimum legal requirements are met. We are talking about the minimum legal requirements that were established even by the Sandinist government—the outgoing government—through the labor laws in effect.

Therefore, to end all the cackling and the alleged presentation of a list of demands to the Presidency of the Republic, I ask the cameras to approach and tell me if this, which is the document presented to Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro, is a list of demands. It does not even fulfill the minimum requirements! It is simply a letter whose contents include a request for a 200-percent salary increase. It is actually a communique which states, on behalf of the Public Employees Confederation, the demand for a 200-percent salary increase or else a basic basket which covers 100 percent of the salary. It is bothersome to state here that, even though the legal counsel's office has been working at the Labor Ministry for so many years, the request has been wrongly presented to the Presidency of the Republic.

Days later I received this message from the Presidency. There is no document with demands from UNE. During the talks held with UNE, CST, and ATC, we said the representative labor organizations of the country had to participate in the negotiations. There is no decree in the country that states which are the representative labor organizations, but we all know that the representative organizations in the country are the CGT [General Confederation of Labor], the oldest labor union which struggled against Somoza for decades; the CTN [Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers]; the CAUS [Central Organization of Trade Union Action and Unity]; the CUS [Confederation for Trade Union Unity]; the CST; the Fetsalud [Federation of Health Workers], and Anden [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers].

In the public sector we now have the Union of Public Workers. It is a union that is a result of a system which recognized it as a union, regardless of the fact that the law said otherwise. The existence of unions within the public sector was prohibited. It may be true that they have a letter recognizing the union, but the laws in this country, the law code, did not permit unions in the public sector. Similarly, strikes were banned in the public sector.

However, certain provisions were repealed on 1 May. Article 226 and especially 227, stating that strikes by employees performing public service or tasks of collective interest are banned, were repealed on 1 May.

Nicaraguan people: We are facing a social and economic problem. We are not interested in confrontation or in the promotion of war unlike the ominous previous government. Such a practice would have no room in a truly educated country. But the truth is that pornography [as heard] is on the rise. However, everything is permitted within a democracy. Let them continue. The media has the right to say what it wants, but the Constitution establishes a framework for it to be said.

Thus, it was not possible to strike in the public sector, not prior to 1 May. Strikes and stoppages declared before that were completely illegal.

This is for legal advisers in case they do not know: A law goes into effect when it is published, and the law repealing Article 227 was published on 1 May. And if legal advisers did not know it, all the collective agreements they negotiated were void. However, we did not declare them void for the sake of national reconciliation.

In accordance with Article 21 of the Labor Code they were void. I will now read this article so that these advisers will realize that, because of a reform carried out by the Sandinist government, Article 22 [number as heard] stated: A collective agreement is one reached to establish general working conditions in an enterprise or a group of enterprises between an employer or group of employers and a union, federation, or confederation of workers' unions. The negotiation and approval of the collective agreement, I repeat, the negotiation and approval of the collective agreement must be approved by the Labor Ministry following the procedures the Labor Ministry establishes. Article 22 reformed Decree 530 of 2 October 1980.

I am reading the Sandinist legislation. Therefore, the negotiation and approval of these agreements should have been directed by the Labor Ministry. All these agreements were signed in April, and, by a strange coincidence, some of them lacked the signature of mediators. They were directly signed by workers with a known affiliation to the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the Sandinist Labor Federation. They were

signed by workers who do not even work in the Conciliation Department, such as Miguel I., rather Eligio, Urias who appears to have signed more than one agreement, (?disregarding the fact) that he was director of the Directorate for Labor Unions. The Conciliation Department is in charge of labor negotiations. The Directorate of Labor Unions has no business negotiating. And by a strange coincidence, also on the same day, these gentlemen signed up to four or five collective agreements when one collective agreement sometimes takes weeks to draft.

Evidently these gentlemen had the virtue of omnipresence like Saint Anthony, and perhaps they were everywhere. The fact that these agreements are null and void is not even worth legal argument. However, we, in our effort to solve everything through dialogue, did not declare them void. What did we say in the decree suspending and reviewing agreements? We said: We are reviewing the collective agreements. And, in an effort not to affect the working people, we stated: We will respect the salary policy.

What is behind all this then? If the salary policy is being respected, if job stability is being respected, what is behind all this? What are they demanding? Well, some might say, you gave me 200 on 24 April. But then on 1 May, you asked for 200 more. And on 4 May, you wanted 400 more. It was a matter of dates. The workers of [words indistinct], after signing an agreement on 24 April, went on to ask for a 400-percent increase on 26 April.

Is there seriousness in this, Nicaraguan people? Dear listeners, would you say these arguments are serious? We must realize that this is not a labor but a political problem. It would be foolish to think that way. However, the kindness they have confused with weakness—our kindness for the sake of national reconciliation—led us to make direct contact with representative labor federations.

We met Friday, 11 May, at the request of the unions, as I said earlier. Present were Gustavo Porras, representing the health sector; Lucio Jimenez, for the CST; Edgardo Garcia, for the ATC; and Alejandro Solorzano, Antonio Jarquin, and Ramon Luna present for the Workers Permanent Congress [CPT]. On Monday [words indistinct].

On that occasion, the meeting lasted five hours. Discussions often turned muddled because there was no desire to get anywhere.

We proposed a declaration that contained, fundamentally, three points. The first point was that the represented labor unions hereby commit themselves to normalize work activities in the central government, autonomous entities, and other government institutions as of Monday. By this means, we are formally urging all workers to go to work to help their superiors and directors accomplish their immediate tasks.

The second point was the counterpart of the first one: The Labor Ministry, on behalf of the state, appeals to the central government and the municipalities to keep employees in their posts for the duration of these negotiations. This employment matter will be resolved based on agreements reached in a national, public sector, collective agreement.

The third point was: The labor unions and the Labor Ministry report that negotiations for a national public sector collective agreement will begin in the next few days.

The third point speaks of the next few days on a request from Lucio Jimenez and Jose Angel Bermudez, but especially from Lucio Jimenez, who serves as the unions' spokesman in these negotiations.

Negotiations for a national convention demand economic and technical advice, so we said: We accept. You tell us when we should meet for the collective agreement, but now we have to sign this declaration, I said. Then they told me that they were going for consultations. This took place Friday at noon.

They said they were going to have consultations. Fine, go ahead. But what happened? Consultations led them to negotiations. Excuse me, this happened on Saturday, 12 May. Social dynamics are so intense that I am getting my days mixed up. The consultations led them to a reiniti-ation of negotiations on Sunday at 1500. Let them meet with their leaders and with the rank and file.

What happened Sunday, 13 May, at 1500? At 1500 on Sunday, modifications to the declaration were proposed. They made counterproposals: First, that the document not be called a declaration. Fine. Let us call it an agreement. No problem. The first obstacle went down.z Another counterproposal was that the document state there will be no reprisals, that [words indistinct]. Fine, add that: There will be no reprisals.

Look, Mr. Minister, they said, some people were dismissed from 25 April to 9 May. Can we negotiate this? Fine. Let this be added.

With each obstacle that went down [words indistinct]. At the end it was said that what they want is no longer a matter of the 100-percent deal on the 53 staples, but a 200-percent salary increase.

I said: Just a moment. This clause has to be negotiated tomorrow as the first point in the national collective agreement talks. What do you say? They said: We are going to consult about this. We will be back at 2000. Go ahead and consult. I am always in favor of negotiations.

At 2030 two labor delegates arrived. Labor was no longer being represented. Two delegates arrived. The general director of the labor office asked them what the problem was. They said that they are delegates in the negotiations and that they agree with all the points, but to [words

indistinct] the special announcement, we have to grant them a 200-percent salary increase for the month of May.

First of all, here we have a procedural problem and an evident lack of respect. For a delegation to be able to negotiate, it must be representative.

What is my immediate conclusion? That I am negotiating with labor leaders who have a terrible [words indistinct] as labor leaders.

Therefore, I would say that the person who is pulling the strings should come out. We implicitly recognize these labor centrals, but that person should come out and negotiate directly with us. We have no objections! The government has appointed me to represent it in the negotiations, and the other party's representative should show up so that we may eliminate the constant consultations. Or is it perhaps that the drive belt does not work?

I ask: How low have these labor unions fallen that they have this terribly weak leadership? Anyway, that is their problem. I propose that they appoint someone. Perhaps a National Directorate member could assume the role. A labor movement's secretariat is as important as any ministry. That would not discredit them. Quite to the contrary, I think it would dignify them.

Then what happened? At 2030 there was no representative with whom to negotiate. I told them: We will leave now and I will give you the opportunity to return. The labor director general told them: Suppose that the minister accepts the 200-percent salary increase. Who will sign? They answered: Ah, we will immediately run and bring Jose Angel and the necessary people! We told them: Then go get Jose Angel so that we may negotiate!

This is simply another mockery, and those so-called signs they carry, which say reconciliation, no more repression, etc., are senseless. The facts show that they are simply trying to boycott everything. EL NUEVO DIARIO announced in an eight-column title that yesterday at 1500 the CGT was told to leave. That was yesterday's detonator. It was clearly planned. It was a plot. They showed up with their own media coverage, entered the office, and immediately, without even sitting down first, demanded: The CGT members must leave. It was a diversionary tactic; it is a guerrilla warfare ploy; it is a cheap trick.

I do not worry about these things. Their plot simply failed. The CGT representatives withdrew of their own volition. Nevertheless, the other comrades left and they returned half an hour later. We renewed the negotiation and the obstacles again appeared. What is the problem now? Now they do not demand 100 percent of the basic basket. Now they demand 200 percent of the basic basket. If we agreed to 200 percent, they would perhaps say: Enforce the civil service law again, and who knows what else they would say. Let us be serious. Use the opportunity you have been given. Let us be serious. We cannot continue like this.

Given the situation, meaning the labor leaders' rejection, those who represent their group should adopt the decisions. It is not true that they have to constantly hold consultations, because that is part of the tricks and strategies used in a negotiation. If, as they claim, they have no decisionmaking power, then they should send the ones who are pulling the strings so that there are no more consultations and so that we may conclude the collective contract with the public employees.

Given the situation I have described, and given that we waited until 0100 at the ministry and they never returned, the Labor Ministry has adopted the following resolution:

Ministerial Resolution

The Labor Ministry's Inspector General, in accordance with the authority granted to him by the labor laws, and given the provisions stated in Articles 224, 302, and 500 of the Labor Code;

Whereas the public sector workers, members of the UNE, and other labor organizations have persisted in their attitude of abandoning their work place—this being an evident and public action—despite the various meetings held with the Labor Ministry;

Whereas their position is not harmonious with the established legal procedures for solving social and economic conflicts according to the current labor laws; and, instead, they maintain a stubborn attitude that is detrimental to the workers and the country in general;

Therefore decrees the following:

1. The strike sponsored in the public sector by the state workers' labor organizations is declared illegal, illicit, and nonexistent.

2. The workers who wish to work are urged to peacefully return to their work places tomorrow, 15 May. Those who obstruct the normal development of activities in the government agencies involved will be fined according to the provisions stated in Articles 229, 240, 241, and 242 of the Labor Code.

Issued in Managua on 14 May 1990.

Ana Carolina Arguello, Inspector General.

[Lacayo] After the reading of the ministerial resolution, which you just heard, we will go on to a question and answer period in an orderly fashion. We will begin with those sitting up front and then proceed to the back. We will begin with the reporter from Extravision newscast. [not further identified]

[Reporter] Minister Rosales, I would like you to explain what Articles [words indistinct] 241 and 242.

[Rosales] I will be glad to read them. They state: The [word indistinct] strike ends without any responsibility for an employer [38-second break in reception] with the labor contracts signed by the strikers, thus becoming exempt of any punishment because of violations of the law committed by them. However, in any new contracts signed by the employer [words indistinct] inferior conditions existing before the strike. If the court rules that the reasons for a strike are to be blamed on the employer because of a breach in the labor contract, because of ill-treatment of workers, or because of noncompliance with dispositions ordered by labor inspectors that tend to seriously damage the health of workers, the employer will have to pay the wages corresponding to the days on which the employees were on strike.

In no case will the employer be forced to pay workers who were on strike seeking the protection of that which is stated in Paragraph Three of Article 222.

What should be done in this case? In accordance with the resolution, they have until tomorrow to show up for work. Those who fail to show up will be dismissed in accordance with that which is stated in Article 222. He who fails to show up will be dismissing himself, and the employer will not have any responsibility in this.

Article 240 states that in the case of stoppages due to legal strikes following requirements established in Article 255 in the Labor Code, the courts will order the police to keep the installations or businesses affected by the conflict closed and to duly protect people and property. In the case of illegal stoppages and strikes, the courts will order the police to guarantee, through every means within their reach, the continuation of activities, and if the situation involves services of collective interest that are in the hands of private individuals, the executive branch will assume temporary control of such enterprise managed by them.

Article 241: Anyone who calls for a strike or stoppage going against that which is prescribed in this article, or who promotes, begins, maintains, spreads, or directs a strike without being an active worker of the enterprise, will have to pay a fine ranging from 50 to 200 cordobas, which will be doubled in the case of repeat offenders.

Article 242: Individuals who... [reception break due to power outage]

[Unidentified Reporter, in progress] ...who is directing the strikes?

[Rosales] The matter at the ministries and the autonomous agencies is crazy. There were some rumors that the Minsa [Health Ministry] had been taken over by the employees. Then there was talk that the Education Ministry had been taken over, but that is not true. There was also talk that Telcor [Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute] had been taken over. However, I talked with Pablo Vigil before coming here, and that is also not true.

So there is some manipulation by the media that follow Sandinist and [word indistinct] positions. This manipulation is part of the psychological warfare which Sandinism knows very well. All newsmen in general know about this. We know what psychological warfare through the media is like.

We do not know the exact situation right now. I know that the Finance Ministry and the Foreign Ministry have been taken over. Regarding your question on the Finance Ministry, I would like to ask Angel Bermudez how he obtained information on state measures. I also want to tell him he is a liar, because a document he showed was not from the Labor Ministry. I had that document and I showed it to newsmen and cameramen. Perhaps he has shown documents dealing with measures at the Health Ministry and others, but not a document with measures at the Labor Ministry. The interesting part is that professional secrecy was violated. The companero who delivered these documents broke the labor code and the country's laws.

People have been penalized for violating professional secrecy. There is Mayo Alegria, who spent more than one year in prison on that account. I would say they should realize that democracy is not a one-way road. Democracy demands respect for the law. I am not telling the companero who delivered the documents that we are going to do to him what they did to Alegria. They should realize that if they really want a state of law, the rules must be respected. The fact that there has been a leak in the secretariat of this ministry speaks of the need to maintain public order in the Finance Ministry. I would say that the Government Ministry should have agents there already. Why? Because they are handling the payrolls. I would like to tell the teachers listening to me right now that it is not the Education Ministry that has their payrolls, but the picketers have their checks. The picketers were in possession of more than 20,000 checks, and they had them because they wanted to provoke a conflict. For this reason I am asking teachers to keep calm and to fully realize who are the ones obstructing delivery of the checks.

It is obvious that not all of the education sectors belong to Anden, so the strikers find it necessary to create conflicts so that the teachers protest. For this reason the checks are not to be delivered. This has been a planned and well-calculated strike. The treasury issued the checks, the banks changed the checks, and everybody failed to go to work. Nothing is important here.

The problem was planned and calculated, as far as the Education Ministry is concerned. At 0800, the finance minister had a big argument at the Ministry of Finance because the teachers' checks were in the hands of the picketers. We are making those picketers responsible for that money. If the checks get lost [words indistinct].

[Lacayo] The telephones are mysteriously functioning again, and the network broadcast [words indistinct].

[Rosales] There was a question on what is going to be done. [Words indistinct] the Government Ministry has to affirm public order. It has to adopt a decision on what has to be done.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, you issued some statements and said that there was no salary scale here, that the salaries paid here could not be used as a precedent by which to establish even a minimum salary. You then said that an important organization like the (?ILO) [International Labor Organization] could possibly be asked to give you advice on salary issues and even to (?help reach an agreement in) this conflict.

[Rosales] I have publicly said, on more than one occasion, that a minimum salary law would be the first step in that direction. Unfortunately, the strike, which was called for an unjust cause, has provoked this situation, and the minimum salary law will have to wait a little bit. However, the idea is to request the counsel of the ILO to establish viewpoints. That is an idea that we [words indistinct] but we believe is part of the methodology to organize the government's salary policy.

There is something important about this question. The SNOTS [National Labor and Wages Organization System] has not disappeared as a law. It was never abolished. A speech was simply delivered by a commander in a public square, during which he said that the people were free to negotiate their salary. The state sadly became the example of decadence when the commander publicly said that the SNOTS no longer applied.

Paradoxically, there is no reference to the SNOTS, for example, in the Labor Ministry's case. No. The qualifiers disappeared. The [word indistinct] groups disappeared. The state simply created an anarchy in which one ministry paid in one way, and another ministry paid in another way. One ministry paid with national treasury money, and another paid with the money of enterprises and corporations operating under the ministry. Therefore, this calamity makes it necessary to reorganize the state's salary system, and this is one of the reasons it was decided to hold the negotiations for the public sector's labor agreement instead of signing a salary [words indistinct] with the public sector. The salary system must be reorganized.

Unfortunately, the Marxists, the other Marxists, forget that Karl Marx said that each person should be paid according to his abilities and that [words indistinct] the transition period, hoping to [words indistinct] socialism, where each action is paid according to the person's needs. Therefore, we once more forget what we want, and the revolution obviously became the great myth and the inheritance of only a few. Scientifically, the salary was established according to the worker's abilities, meaning each one was paid according to his abilities. This is not something that Chamorro's government made up, and we will not adopt it. We will simply reorganize the country's salary system, whether those minorities want it or not.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, referring to your statement that the strike is a political obstacle [words indistinct], I want to ask you to expand on the issue. In your opinion, what is the goal? To oust the Chamorro government or [words indistinct] to the Sandinist government's [word indistinct]? What is the ultimate goal? Second, under what circumstances would the [words indistinct] salary law be implemented?

[Rosales] I am very aware of the fact that the show of force is strictly political. There are some who need to justify themselves. I think that the political problem is within the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] itself. There were some FSLN leaders who disagreed with holding elections, and at that time they [words indistinct] former President Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Commander Humberto Ortega and told them: Gentlemen, you wanted [words indistinct]. Obviously Bayardo Arce never thought they were going to lose. He never thought that. [Words indistinct] wanted the moon, and the truth is that the moon fell on top of him.

It is sad because it is the reality of our people. [Words indistinct] those who are taking advantage and are increasing their activity to begin the chaos. However, they do not realize that by creating chaos [words indistinct] problem with other intentions.

They were saying: The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] is not giving up its arms, and the peace process which we are beginning is being obstructed. Therefore, if I were a RN member, the first thing I would say was if they cannot (?control) public order, what guarantee can they give me about my personal life?

Thus, this is a political problem which is also going to backfire against those who are provoking it. Why? Because the Government Ministry and the Defense Ministry will have to keep public order, and this is why I am not sure that there is a sector within the FSLN National Directorate [words indistinct].

I have not seen Commander Humberto Ortega calling for a general strike or Daniel Ortega or Commander Tirado calling for a general strike or systematic stoppages. The stand of the Tertiary Line [one of several FSLN factions prior to revolutionary victory in 1979, led by Daniel and Humberto Ortega and Victor Tirado Lopez] has been very clear. In like fashion, we have not heard Jaime Wheelock, Luis Carrion, or Carlos Nunez calling for a general strike or [words indistinct]. However, we know very well that the [words indistinct] is the democratic tendency. The problem here is very clear. The people think that [words indistinct] because there are certain mid-level commands which are interested in creating this chaos. [Words indistinct] politicians and some opportunist politicians who have appeared [words indistinct] to maintain public order will prove if the police are loyal to the Constitution and the president. Let the army prove that it guarantees and protects the Constitution.

The problem is not Chamorro. The problem is these quote, politicians, unquote. The problem is created by those hotheaded politicians. I also noted that I did not want to accuse any of the FSLN National Directorate members of issuing strike calls. These were made by bad mid-level commands, with clear intentions. They are behind this.

Thus, all of a sudden, the political problem is in their hands. They must solve it. The Army guarantees our Constitution. The Government Ministry must guarantee public order.

To conclude this news conference, I wish to say that I hope that everything will return to normal, that tomorrow all the workers will go back to work, and that the unions, through their leaders and with patriotic responsibility, will begin a serious dialogue that will result in the drafting of a collective agreement for the public sector. Thank you.

Threatens To Use Army

PA1405201490 Paris AFP in Spanish 1934 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Managua, 14 May (AFP)—Today, Nicaragua Labor Minister Francisco Rosales threatened to use the Sandinist Army to break the government workers' strike, if by tomorrow workers have not returned to their jobs.

After saying the strike was "illegal," Rosales announced that workers who do not return to work will be fired.

During a news conference, Rosales read a communique issued by the Labor Inspection Office indicating that if the Sandinist Police have not reinstated order by 12 May, then "the Army could be called." The Army is headed by Sandinist General Humberto Ortega.

Despite his warning, Rosales added: "I have not said I am going to repress; I am sure that by tomorrow all our workers will return to their offices."

The minister's threats, however, have apparently had an effect contrary to the one that was desired, as workers from the banking sector announced that they were going on an indefinite strike as of 1800 GMT today.

The minister also warned Sandinist media that it must abstain from "inciting" the strikes because, otherwise, he would have to "apply the law."

'Willing' To Negotiate

PA1405223590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1955 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Managua, 14 May, (ACAN-EFE)—The government declared today that the strike decreed by government employees against Violeta de Chamorro's administration is illegal. This is the government's first crisis since it assumed office 19 days ago.

On 10 May more than 30,000 of the 48,000 government employees belonging to UNE began a strike which has almost paralyzed the administration. The employees are demanding higher salaries and job stability.

The strike began after the government announced the suspension of the Civil Service Law passed by the previous administration. This law protects the job stability of the Sandinist officials in the new administration.

The employees are demanding a 200-percent pay raise and the reinstatement of the currently suspended Civil Service Law.

Labor Minister Francisco Rosales declared the strike "illegal, illicit, and nonexistent." He said that employees who are not back on their jobs by 15 May will be "self-dismissed" and the government will not have to pay them.

During a news conference given today, Rosales said that "any person who publicly incites a strike or promotes, incites, suggests, supports, or directs a strike and who is not an active worker at that company will be fined."

The official announced that the workers who wish to go back to work tomorrow will be guaranteed that no picket line will keep them from doing this.

Rosales said that the police, who are under orders from Government Minister Carlos Hurtado, will guarantee order should the strikers try to prevent the workers from returning to their jobs tomorrow.

The minister announced that the Labor Ministry's employment department will be open tomorrow and will be accepting job applications from those who wish to work for the government.

Rosales said that he is willing to sit down and talk, "without pressures," with the leaders of the UNE and the CST to hear their demands for wage increases and the Civil Service Law, which is currently suspended.

According to the minister, the problem that President Violeta Chamorro's government is facing "is not a wage problem" but a "political problem," even though he admitted that none of the commanders of the FSLN National Directorate has made calls for a general strike.

However, Rosales blamed the FSLN's "mid-level leadership" for "creating the conflict," and added that "the police will have to prove that it is loyal to the Constitution and to President Chamorro."

The FSLN National Directorate issued a communique on Saturday, 12 May, describing the decree suspending the Civil Service Law as "unconstitutional." The communique adds that the Sandinist leaders "will be at the head of the people against any aggression."

On Friday, 11 May, the workers on strike occupied several ministries, including the Health, Agriculture, and

Labor Ministries and the Communications Directorate, and did not allow the high-ranking officials to enter the buildings.

Today the workers continue to occupy the National Assembly, the National Palace, and the Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, Press and Information Director Danilo Lacayo has said that of the 75,000 state employees, "only 5,000 or 6,000 are participating in demonstrations and the occupation of some government buildings."

CTN Secretary General Calls for More Strikes

PA1405225490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2015 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Lucio Jimenez, top trade union leader of the Sandinist Central Workers [CTN], said that the revolutionary trade union movement, far from being frightened by the threats by right-wing Labor Minister Francisco Rosales to jail them and oust them from public offices, will deepen the general strike tomorrow with the joining of more institutions in the national strike.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Lucio, what is the opinion of the labor union you lead after the labor minister threatened jailing workers and declared the strike illegal today?

[Jimenez] You might have expected that the representative of a bourgeoisie government such as Chamorro's would act this way. They are acting exactly as the Somozists did. We feel they are very mistaken if they think they are going to do exactly what they did in the past. We remind them that we now have a highly-organized force. We have our Armed Forces, and they cannot forget that. We are here with the workers' front, discussing other strikes at a national level. These gentlemen should be aware that it is not that easy to simply declare a strike illegal. In the final event the workers will declare the strike legal.

[Reporter] The minister said that they would use Government Ministry forces and the Sandinist People's Army if the strikers do not leave the premises. What is the central's position?

[Jimenez] What he really wanted to say is that he would be willing to fling the contras on us. This government's goal is to run down the Armed Forces, eliminate them, and replace them with the Somozist guard. Of course, we do not want the Somozist guard.

[Reporter] How will you address this?

[Jimenez] Last night we called on Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute] workers and construction workers, who are now at a complete standstill. Telcor workers are preparing a communique announcing—you reporters must also be ready—increased interruptions to communications at the local, national, and international level. Announcements will be made this afternoon on new strikes that will join in.

[Reporter] Are you willing to continue negotiating?

[Jimenez] He has declared the strike illegal. The government has practically broken off negotiations. This is a [words indistinct] and bourgeoisie government. They are really clashing with the population's most (?basic interests). This is not only among the workers. This morning I contacted [passage indistinct] Violeta's unpopular government policies. [end recording]

Lacayo Urges Striking Workers To Return to Work

PA1505012990 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 May 90

["Message to the Nicaraguan people" from Danilo Lacayo, director of information and press for the Presidency, from the Presidential Palace in Managua—live]

[Text] We would like to advise the Nicaraguan people, especially the state workers, that this afternoon the Finance, Economy, and Agriculture Ministries, and the National Palace were handed over to the appropriate authorities. We would like to call on all the workers of these ministries to come to work tomorrow morning. Let us remember that a ministerial resolution was issued today by Labor Minister Francisco Rosales Arguello. The resolution states that all workers who do not show up to work tomorrow will be dismissed. It is important to point out that Violeta de Chamorro's government wants to dismiss no one. Quite the contrary; it wants all the state workers to remain on their jobs. However, to do this we also need a sense of responsibility and wisdom on the part of the state workers. We, therefore, call on all the finance, economy, and agriculture ministries, and National Palace workers to show up to work at 0800 tomorrow, 15 May. Their presence is of vital importance. We wish to remind you that, according to the ministerial resolution issued today by the Labor Ministry, if you do not show up to work tomorrow you will be dismissed.

Thank you, listeners of Radio Nicaragua. I wish to stress that this call goes out especially to the workers at the aforementioned ministries.

Chamorro Asks Citizens To Return to Their Jobs

PA1505044490 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0401 GMT 15 May 90

[Message to the nation by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro from the Presidential House in Managua—live]

[Text] Compatriots and Nicaraguan friends:

I am addressing the entire nation tonight, and very especially all state workers, to urge you to go to work tomorrow so that we can resume our activities normally.

Only with the work and effort of all will we move the country forward. During my political campaign I always said that we had to change things in Nicaragua, and one of the most important things we must change is the economic frustration of recent years.

The previous government tried to solve this crisis, but it could not, blaming the warlike situation the country was experiencing for it. Today we have taken firm steps to definitively end the war and to consolidate a stable and lasting peace, which can advance every day with the disarming of a large number of Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] fighters and the reduction of the country's military apparatus. To date, 785 RN members have joined the peace process. However, this effort we are making to consolidate peace must be accompanied by an effort to lift up the country's economy, and this cannot be achieved through stoppages and strikes.

The march towards democracy, peace, and development demands that the solution of conflicts be made through dialogue and negotiation. There can be no national reconciliation unless an economic and social pact is made.

For this reason, I am addressing the working people tonight to urge them to go to work as scheduled tomorrow. I will comply with the popular mandate I received on 25 February, a mandate that means peace and national reconciliation, economic recovery and social justice, and includes the absolute respect for land in the hands of cooperatives and peasants. It is the de jure system that Nicaraguans demanded on 25 February. Democracy demands that, regardless of who you voted for, the people's will of the majority, who chose me on that day, must be respected.

I am the president of all Nicaraguans, and as such I will solve the country's problems. Thank you and good evening to all my Nicaraguan compatriots.

Several Production Sectors Joining Strike

PA1505145390 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1205 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] The various labor and trade union organizations that comprise the National Workers' Front [Frente Nacional de Trabajadores] yesterday discussed the actions to be taken following the threats made by Labor Minister Francisco Rosales.

In an organized manner, new economic sectors decided to join the indefinite strike on the grounds that their demands have been rejected, and began partial strikes in the afternoon to pressure the government.

The indefinite strike will continue today in solidarity with state workers. This worsens the situation, as autonomous institutions and enterprises with social functions have joined the strike, such as Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services], the INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy], the INAA [Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute], urban and inter-urban transportation, offices of the Education Ministry [two-second break in reception].

Workers of the country's productive agroindustrial sector might join the general strike promoted by state workers.

Lucio Jimenez, leader of the CST's [Sandinist Central Organization of Workers] General Confederation of Labor [CGT] said that it will depend on the situation early today, following Minister Rosales' threats of using the police against striking workers. We will see who they will fire, their officials or the workers, Jimenez stressed.

Health Workers Issue Communique on Strike

PA1505143890 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1207 GMT 15 May 90

["Communique" issued by the Federation of Health Workers, Fetsalud, in Managua; date not given]

[Text] Fetsalud hereby notifies the people of Nicaragua and of the world of the following:

1. We, the health workers, flatly deny the remarks by Labor Minister Francisco Rosales and the progovernment beggars of the CTN [Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers], who gave incorrect information on the minimum wage of the state workers and provided figures that are five times higher than the current minimum wage of the health workers and teachers, who are also state workers.

2. We denounce the outrageous maneuvers by Mr. Rosales who seeks to confuse and divide the workers by imposing the CPT [Worker's Permanent Congress], CTE and CTT [expansions unknown], and CTN beggars as representatives in the negotiations table to counter the firm demands that the National Front of Workers have presented on behalf of all the state workers.

3. On behalf of the health workers, Fetsalud hereby notifies all Nicaraguans that Rosales and the progovernment beggars of the CTN want to wipe out our collective bargaining contracts, both the national collective contract and those at all work centers by trying to impose a single national contract for all state organizations.

This maneuver also undermines the authority of Health Minister Dr. Ernesto Salmeron, who confirmed before an assembly of workers his full support for the collective bargaining contracts of the health workers. He also expressed his support for the workers' 200-percent salary increase demand during that assembly held on 5 May.

4. We also denounce that even though the health minister signed the stability agreement for the health workers, regional directors and other officials of the new government are plotting with those who have sold out with the CTE to break these agreements.

Fetsalud and the health workers fully comply with and support the health volunteer activities for the benefit of our children, and we have not ceased to work in the health centers for the benefit of our people's health. However, the stubbornness of these aforementioned individuals to disrupt stability could lead to a situation of unforeseen consequences.

5. We condemn the use of public force to resolve a just conflict. This is evidence that there are plans to return to Somozism, but we will not allow this. Not one step backward!

6. We urge all of our unions and workers to organize the struggle in all of our centers, but to continue to provide services to our people, who are not to be blamed for the unfair measures of this government, and to be attentive in the event more unfair measures are adopted.
Not one step backward! Everyone against the unfair measures.
Issued by Fetsalud

Commentary Says Strike Puts Government 'on Trial'

PA1405154190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1250 GMT 14 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Nicaragua is now walking along a dangerous road of social instability and heading toward chaos. The government has refused to accept the unconstitutionality of its latest decrees and the rights of its workers. Labor Minister Francisco Rosales, judge over, and party to, the state labor conflict, is responding by holding talks with pro-government unions that do not represent the government workers' community, in apparent negotiation of the conflict. His threats to use force will only increase tensions, as well as his nonacceptance of workers' strength and unity, now supported by sectors that will paralyze decentralized institutions and the entire country. Despite the flexible position showed by workers' leaders to solve the conflict, Rosales arrogantly shuns good sense and confronts the strengthened labor sectors by using (?lackeys) to undermine the movement. At the same time, the official radio station, Radio Nicaragua, and the government's television station are developing a strong campaign to undermine the labor sectors that had only been seen during the Somoza dictatorship.

Today, the government employees' strike enters its most difficult phase, one that will put the government itself on trial. In the horizon we can see uncertainty arising among rural government workers and members of cooperatives because of President Chamorro's unconstitutional decrees. The government of rights and reconciliation which was hailed by Mrs. Chamorro has ended and these slogans have proven to be only demagoguery. Instead it is turning into a dictatorial regime that even breaks the Constitution by revoking matters that are legally supposed to be administered by the legislative branch. The use of the Public Force against government workers will only radicalize the unstable social climate in the country and oblige the police to repress its people, thus implementing a system equal to the one carried out by Somozism.

President Violeta Barrios Chamorro will have to bear responsibility for her transgressions against the Constitution and the repression of workers, state employees, and members of peasant cooperatives before Nicaragua and history.

Editorial Says Government 'Playing With Fire'

PA1505035190 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 12 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "They Are Playing With Fire"]

[Text] The arbitrary, repressive, and unpopular measures taken by the new government in the past days constitute a clear and highly dangerous provocation of the people, who after 10 years of revolution will not be fooled by anyone.

The brutal IMF-style economic policy promoted by Central Bank Manager Francisco Mayorga, the threatening and disrespectful remarks by Labor Minister Francisco (Chicon) Rosales, the slanderous and irresponsible campaign to discredit Sandinist leaders, and, finally, the unconstitutional suspension of the Civil Service Law, have put the country on the threshold of an explosion of unforeseen consequences.

It would seem the Violeta Barrios government has adopted the "logic" of right-wing fanatics in an antihistorical attempt to revive the Somoza-style bourgeois dictatorship against the will of all the people, who only want peace and an improvement in their economic situation.

The top government officials' arrogance in dealing with the workers constitutes an attitude of provocation that cannot harbor good intentions. It would seem as if they want to compare strength with the people, and that is a dangerous game; true folly.

The first firm, yet moderate, response from the workers is the start of the nationwide state strike that, unless the government mends its way, will inevitably grow and expand until the final consequences are reached.

Hopefully, government officials will reflect and change while there is still time, because they are playing with fire...and are going to get burned.

TV Director Said To Trample Reporters' Rights

PA1405160090 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1340 GMT 13 May 90

[From "The Newsmen Talk" section]

[Text] Today, we want to avail ourselves of this part of "The Newsmen Talk" [Charlas de Periodistas] to reiterate our support for the newsmen of the Sistema

Nacional de Television. The new director of that television channel is Carlos Briceno, a North American Nicaraguan who, as a result of the UNO [National Opposition Union] victory, has established residence in Nicaragua. He has announced that the companeros of the Sistema Nacional de Television might be dismissed on 14 May.

To this effect, we want to protest once again this new attack on freedom of expression. It must be very easy for the North American Nicaraguan Carlos Briceno, who has spent much his time with close friends such as George Bush's son squandering many dollars, to come now to our country and want to trample on newsmen.

Once again, we advise this new government that we newsmen have not lost practice in mobilization, and if necessary, we will go underground to continue our work as journalists—as we did in the past when we fought against Somoza. We are determined once again to mobilize to defend freedom of expression.

Once again, we newsmen demand that the Barrios de Chamorro government suspend all outrages against newsmen of the various media. For example, we also know that Briceno has accused journalists Angela Zavallos and Lourdes Pallais of being phantom journalists, and has used other strong words. They sent their lawyers to Briceno, asking him to prove in court the charges he is making against some newsmen of the Sistema Nacional de Television.

He is making slanderous statements. We repeat: We wonder where this foreigner gets any moral or political authority. He spent many years abroad, and now he avails himself of the opportunity given by the Sandinist National Liberation Front to establish democracy in Nicaragua and wants to trample the rights of Nicaraguan journalists.

Defense Ministry Reports Rebel Actions

PA1505135690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0018 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Managua, 14 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported today that the latest rebel actions carried out in different zones resulted in four contra and one peasant death along with the wounding of two Sandinist soldiers. The Ministry also reported kidnappings and the theft of money and cattle.

For their part, 556 contras have surrendered their weapons to the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) since the demobilization began on 8 May. This figure is a little more than half of what was originally expected.

The Defense Ministry communique issued today notes that on 14 May four rebels were killed in an attack against military guards posted at El Jicaro Bridge in the northern department of Matagalpa.

Also, the communique accused another rebel group of killing a peasant on 10 May in San Antonio valley near Pueblo Nuevo in the northern department of Esteli.

In another action that same day a contra group kidnapped Lieutenant Gerardo Benavides after a Government Ministry vehicle was intercepted in a sector of Jinotega Department along the Honduran border.

The Defense Ministry reports that two soldiers were wounded and two others were missing after some contras intercepted a military vehicle near La Libertad in the central department of Chontales.

The data cited today indicates that money and cattle were stolen in different parts of the departments of Matagalpa, southern Atlantic region, and Rio San Juan, the latter near the Costa Rican border.

Panama

Arias, Ford Discuss 'Political Opportunities'

PA1405165290 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Panama's two vice presidents [Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford] have denied that there are differences over so-called 'political opportunities' within the current government.

[Begin recording] [Arias] I believe that you are aware of my thoughts on this subject. We must have a democratic government alliance for a long time. It will require mutual loyalties, and when one of the sides has any claims, it must make them so they can be discussed and the problem resolved, as has been the case.

[Ford] I detest the phrase 'political opportunity.' I believe that there are certain things that should have been buried with the dictatorship.

[Unidentified reporter] Like what?

[Ford] Like political opportunities, which should not exist. The people must understand that this is an alliance government and the parties in the alliance have taken on the responsibility for certain institutions. This does not mean that political opportunities are being distributed. My ministry does not belong to Molirena [National Liberal Republican Movement]; Molirena is responsible, through me, for that ministry's proper management.

[Reporter] While these struggles for political opportunities are waged, could there be a decline in the democratic alliance?

[Ford] I do not believe there is any struggle for political opportunities. If you speak to the president of the Republic about political opportunities I can guarantee he will go through the roof.

[Reporter] Deputy Minister Galan spoke of differences with you.

[Ford] Ask him what those differences are. If he said that, he must answer your question.

[Reporter] Some sectors feel that this [not further explained] is destabilizing the reconstruction effort. What is your opinion?

[Ford] I believe that the democracy which has replaced a dictatorial regime as brutal, harassing, and oppressive as Noriega's, must have its highs and lows, because the people are finding new paths. I respectfully urge everyone to face reality; economic solutions and the generation of jobs will give us true stability. However, we will gain nothing from destroying the little that has been built. We must work on rebuilding together. [end recording]

Helicopter Exercise Carried Out Near Presidency

PA1405200790 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 May 90 p A1

[Report by Claudio Herrera]

[Text] Three Chinook helicopters flew into the night on 13 May over the area of the Presidency, without any official explanation from the Presidency's Information Office concerning the exercise.

In formation and with their typical level of noise, the three helicopters flew in circles over the old part of Panama City and the Bay of Panama, both from the side surrounding the Presidency to the El Chorrillo neighborhood and a nearby beach of that war-damaged area of the capital.

Contrary to what happened on 1 May in the Presidency of the Republic, there was no movement of Institutional Protection Service [SPI] personnel who guard that area.

On 1 May, after training described as routine by the presidential spokesperson, a youth, Jose Cubillas—a member of the SPI—was killed in what has been considered an accident.

Residents of the neighborhood surrounding the Presidency told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that they had not seen anything out of the ordinary in the streets adjacent to the Presidency, but they mentioned that three helicopters overflew the area.

The U.S. Southern Command has not issued an official bulletin concerning the presence of the helicopters, despite the fact that we tried to obtain an official report from the spokesman for the U.S. Southern Command.

The actions of the helicopters continued even after heavy rains fell over the old part of town, and they were suspended at approximately 1800.

Some police vehicles were placed in the area along Balboa Avenue. Two National Police vehicles were patrolling the area near the seat of Panama's Archidiocese in the Maranon neighborhood, but no connection with the air operation has been established.

Crime Rate Soars as Police Wait for Equipment

PA1505034890 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] The number of robberies and assaults seems to be on the increase in the capital city, despite police efforts to keep the underworld in check. There are daily reports of people being shot by thugs who enter their homes and do not hesitate to shoot.

Jose Ledislado Gonzalez lives in Nuevo Belen neighborhood in Tocumen, and thieves paid a visit to him this morning, shooting him three times. One shot hit him in the face, and he is in delicate condition at the Santo Tomas Hospital.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] My face is swollen. I do not know, but I understand it was a bullet because they never got near me.

[Reporter] Is your area patrolled?

[Gonzalez] Sometimes the police go past, but it is sporadic. They may go by twice a week, not every day. [end recording]

The thieves seem to have lost respect for the Public Force [FP], and in areas like Curundu shootouts are again becoming more frequent. Police do what they can with what they have, but the criminals simply do as they like, and lately the police have become targets of the criminals' bullets.

While all this goes on, the funeral of Sergeant Andres Riquelme took place today at Santa Ana church. He lost his life while patrolling and providing security to the community. Riquelme was struck by bird shot when he came across some criminals in Santa Cruz's No. 3 multiple-housing development. His murderers have not been caught, but several suspects are being sought. Riquelme was buried at the Amador Cemetery, with high-ranking government officials present. Riquelme is an example of a true policeman who sacrificed everything for the community's welfare and security.

The FP admits that it needs more equipment to halt the criminal activity.

[Begin recording of FP Chief Colonel Eduardo Herrera] We are fighting crime with all we have. Despite the lack of resources, our men are giving their lives for our citizens. We must do this with love for our fatherland. [end recording]

Col. Herrera said that next week they will receive more equipment to fully comply with the task of guarding the capital. He said that large-scale operations could not be ruled out, such as those that took place recently in Curundu and Cocobolo Hill. Meanwhile, the community is alarmed by the upsurge in criminal violence and the people are clamoring for solutions.

Civic Crusade Calls for National Consultation

PA1405163790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Jose Raul Mulino, president of APEDE [Panamanian Association of Business Executives] and Civic Crusade leader, has stressed that top government officials must get used to being questioned because they are living in a democracy.

[Begin recording] [Mulino] No party is entitled to say that it is either the largest party or the party that represents the Panamanian people based upon the results of the 7 May [1989] elections. I believe that if the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] is currently suffering a political setback—which I do not want to delve into because it is an issue that involves only PDC members and I am not interested—it must conscientiously think about its actions—what is it doing, why is it facing this crisis, and why is it being attacked in this manner—instead of thinking that the setback is the outcome of a plot or a conspiracy, or that there are individuals cutting the ground from under Arias Calderon. I believe that it is rather childish to react that way.

I believe that the gist of the country's problem at this moment—and I mean this very moment—has to do with the Public Force, the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police]; the constant accusations that have been leveled, statements by ranking government officials who have expressed their concern about this institution's role in our society, and statements by honest and dignified Panamanians willing to say why they are opposed to that institution.

In my opinion, a national consultation is urgent. It is urgent for President Endara's government—our government, the government we elected on 7 May—to seek out the people's opinions. If mistakes must be righted, if attitudes or actions must be corrected, this is the time to do it.

[Unidentified reporter] It looks as if the government is overlooking the principle that the people's voice is God's voice. Is this the direct mainspring of your questions?

[Mulino] More than a premise, it is a time-tested fact. The people's voice is God's voice. They [President Endara and Vice Presidents Arias Calderon and Ford] said this during the political campaign and now is the time to put it into practice. The Panamanian people demand to be heard, to be taken into account, and to be consulted. [end recording]

Column Criticizes Dismissals of Investigators

PA1405130190 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 9 May 90 p 5

["Leaks and Tips" column]

[Text] The beheading of government officials who dare to bring charges against other government officials has begun. They are beheaded not because of the charges they are making, but because there are some people who do not want these charges to be heard by the public. As is quite logical, the government is aware of the fact that steps and actions that are quite unpopular are being taken. In other words, for the time being at least, the conditions are not right for launching the desired democracy.

There are persistent rumors that the next person to be beheaded will be Magistrate [Eusebio] Marchosky, and if the comptroller defends him, then he will also have to go. The reason for this is quite simple—there is nothing wrong with presenting charges no matter how many or how serious these charges may be; what they do not want is for the people to find out.

As long as there is no judicial system; and judges, magistrates, and district attorneys are handpicked by politicians, justice will be subordinated and judicial officials will have to follow the instructions of those who put them in office. Justice will always be manipulated by the interests of the ruling parties' bigwigs.

As an example, we mention the reconciliation practices at the Attorney General's office. They demanded the "resignations" of certain district attorneys because they "collaborated" with Noriega and the Codepadi [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity]. However, others who did the same thing remain untouched. Some who were never involved in politics were not touched and remain in their office, but then, there are others who fall into the same category and who were fired without explanation.

EL SIGLO has dates, information, and names of workers at the Attorney General's office who insist on questioning journalists when a simple statement would suffice. The air in some district attorneys' offices smells of revenge. We know that some workers at the Attorney General's office who in the past persecuted us, cannot wait to go back to ordering the arrest of some leaders of this newspaper.

The people are not sucking their thumbs. There are some evil interests waiting to erect a fence and keep the people from learning about certain things, and in a very subtle manner they have made enormous progress toward their goal. However, a forewarned journalist is a forearmed journalist.

'Message' From Bishops on Reconstruction, Aid

PA1505023190 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 May 90 pp A1, A2, A9

[Message issued by the archbishop and the Council of Priests of the Archdiocese of Panama in Panama City on 10 May]

[Text] 1. We Want To Communicate Hope

Throughout the duration of the crisis in recent years, we, as pastors of the church, have tried to instill hope in our people who have been submerged in anguish and fears. We have tried to instill in them the hope of Our Resurrected Lord. In the capital city and in the interior of the Republic, in each diocese throughout the nation, the Catholic

Church, to which the majority of the Panamanian people belong, has tried to assume as its own the journey of the people. Other Christian churches and religious groups have adopted a similar spiritual task.

And so it was that in the worst and darkest hours of the recent past, our words called for conversion and reconciliation, to search for paths of love and nonviolence with our trust placed in God and in all of the men and women who form part of this nation.

Now, in this new stage of our country's life, the Church also wants to promote that faith capable of moving mountains and surpassing all obstacles (Mark 11:23), that hope which renews faith and makes one run without wearying and walk without tiring (Isaiah 40:31), and that love that should lubricate as oil all of our personal relations and penetrate our complex community and social lives (Ephesians 4:15-16).

Once more, our words seek to invite overcoming all fears and paralyzing fears. "Do not be afraid. Be brave! I have defeated the world!" (John 16:33)

2. The Democracy That Is Ahead of Us

The fact that the search for the democratic life we strongly want has not been easy and has not produced results quickly should not come as a surprise. We spent more than a generation without democracy. Now it is necessary to learn how it functions, from the start, and to improve it by applying the lessons learned through 25 years. We must enjoy our liberty and demand liberty, but we must not take advantage of liberty to commit abuses, and we must not disregard the rights that others have or the respect they deserve. We must not resume the cheap practice of allotting jobs and opportunities as if they were political bounty rather than sacred posts from which to serve mankind.

3. The Task of Reconstruction

In addition to the lack of democracy, there is now a difficult "reconstruction" task announced by the new government. This task must be tackled in the midst of the physical, political, and economic destruction and havoc that exist in much of the nation since 20 December as a result of many years of oppression and corruption, of economic sanctions and the U.S. invasion, and of the looting that so much pain and shame brought us.

4. The Scarce and Delayed Foreign Aid

Considering the tasks ahead, it is amazing to see the sluggishness of the North Americans in freeing restricted funds; in lifting sanctions; in realistically, justly, and generously apportioning money to Panama. The statement by some senator that Panama has no "strategic importance" for the United States is painfully untimely considering that the United States swelled militarism in this country and used it as a base for its military presence in Central and South America.

5. A Country Rising Out of Its Ashes

Now, as it rises out of its ashes, Panama is remembering its dead who fell on 20 December. It wants to promote solutions for the homeless and begin to rebuild its national life. In fact, the people are insistently asking about their dead: How many? Who are they? They want to give each one of them a decent burial, in a place where their relatives can go to offer their prayers and love. The people want the grieving relatives to receive all the compensation they deserve for the loss of human life, property, goods, and jobs. These humanitarian, not political, demands deserve our staunch support.

The homeless in El Chorrillo and other sectors are clamoring for our attention and solidarity, chiefly to arrive at specific and expeditious housing solutions. The dark cloud of unemployment hovers over thousands of them, and over many other Panamanians as well, with its aftermath of hunger and psychological problems that affect individuals and their family nucleus.

6. There Are Encouraging Signs

All in all, there are signs that encourage us. The reconstruction is felt. It is already moving. The national community is rising. The economic figures announce it so. The movement in the cities and rural areas confirm it. Most of all, and this is something few persons realize, in just a few months the state's national fabric has been reconstructed in all of the entities, institutions, and officials of the government. By itself, this situation is a feat worthy of admiration, if we recall the chaotic situation that led to the events of 20 December 1989.

The task of "rebuilding" calls for a great deal of valor and courage from everyone. This is what we want to suggest as we ask the Lord for it, and this is why we dare mention the chief aspects where we could be failing.

7. Our Communication

While we solemnly support freedom of expression, we deem it our duty to note that the news media often carry accusatory, strident, and offensive news and statements that explode in every direction. This does not seem to be the use but the abuse of that freedom of expression that was denied to us for so long. It is essential that we cultivate respect for the truth and for others and become aware of our responsibility for everything we say, based on ethical principles. Officials at the service of the nation must truly keep this in mind.

8. The Poor

The large sectors of poor people in our country are poorer than ever and almost voiceless because their leadership, decimated by the buy offs and bribes of the past, has not yet achieved a new form of expression. A truly participatory democracy, not only politically but economically and socially, must have its people organized through mediating bodies that have a say in the decisions that affect the masses.

If the people become simple spectators in an atmosphere of nondialogue and mutual accusations, they will gradually lose the confidence required for democratic coexistence. Instead of strengthening democratic resolve, the seeds that could make democracy fail would be planted.

9. Justice

The people need an explanation as to why, in response to the numerous crimes committed, the implementation of justice has been so long in coming, given the complications of the legal process. Once the most important cases are resolved, the people would conscientiously agree to the unhurried resolution of the rest. They would then be capable of understanding that "reconciliation" does not mean the omission of justice. It means rather that once justice is carried out, a reconciled society can regroup instead of remain perpetually divided and disassociated by currents of hatred and rancor.

10. The Nation Has To Make Decisions

The matter of having a national police force capable of efficiently protecting the citizens from loathsome criminal violence without, at the same time, bringing forth the ghost of a new form of militarism, is certainly one of the most complicated and rousing problems the nation is facing. There are other problems that are as acute or more acute than the militarism problem: the need for a national economic plan, the future of the social security and public health systems, etc.

The government people; the political opposition, in and out of the government; the media; and the people—who have fundamental power in all countries—will decide whether applied political procedures are valid or not, based on how these and other problems are resolved.

11. Democracy's Discipline

This is why it is necessary to gain an education in democracy by learning its rules and working on its discipline. The government is responsible for preparing plans and programs and for presenting important issues in a complete and coherent fashion. In the search for common well-being with a special sense of social justice for the poor, plans and projects may be improved or modified as a result of ideas and criticism from all sectors of society. In the reconstruction task, government unity and leadership are truly important factors.

If these factors are present, the government would be showing the people a path, reviving their hopes, and activating their energy. The people will feel that they have been invited to make an honest, generous, and unselfish contribution to the greatness of the fatherland.

This way we will be building a democracy.

12. A Moral and Civic Education

It appears that giving the people a moral and civic education is the main task we have ahead of us. After many years without a democracy, we feel like travelers in a foreign land. We are tempted to repeat the abuses and evil actions that in the past have distorted democracy: sinecure, influence, and other expressions of favoritism. We must reject and condemn this. Ethical and moral values must permeate the community. The Education Ministry has stated the need for school programs on civics and democracy. This is also needed at home, in businesses, in labor unions, and, of course, in the church.

13. Conclusion

We conclude this message the same way we started it: with solid optimism and founded hopes. The call for a profound conversion by the Lord so we live with new values that will permit a new life in Panama is an urgent call and requires prayer now more than ever.

It will not be easy to find the path, but as we move on we will build it. As the poet says: "...you make a path as you march."

This is the way it will be for all of us who live in this small isthmus, if, as we search for a road, we follow Christ our Lord, who is our "Road, Truth, and Life" (John 14:6).

Panama, 10 May 1990

Marcos G. McGrath, metropolitan archbishop of Panama
Oscar M. Brown J., auxiliary bishop
Monsignor Juan Bustavino, general vicar
Monsignor Jorge Altafulla, episcopal vicar in the east
Monsignor Jose L. Andrade, episcopal vicar in western Panama
Father Fernando Guardia, pastoral episcopal vicar
Father Jose Zaporta, Zone 1 Parish
Presbyter Julio Santamaria, Zone 2 Parish
Father Benjamin Gallego, Zone 4 Paris
Presbyter Carlos Mejia, episcopal vicar in the east
Presbyter Reynaldo Karamanites, episcopal vicar in the east
Father Antonio Zufia, family pastoral adviser
Presbyter Jose Quezada, director of the Youth Pastoral Archdiocese
Father Manuel Blanquer, university pastoral

Argentina

Menem Assesses Status of Administration, Economy

PY1405212890 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 May 90

[Excerpt] The president arrived at Government House very early today. Menem invited reporters to accompany him to his office where he was scheduled to grant a series of interviews on the occasion of the first anniversary of his electoral victory. Menem gave an assessment of his administration:

[Begin recording] [Menem] Despite difficulties, I think the overall situation has improved in the past few months. We received a country on fire. We were able to slowly calm things down. The productive revolution is under way, although not as fast as we would have wanted. We have had some successes in the economic field. We are holding the hyperinflationary process under control, and we are striving to end recession.

The hyperinflationary process always creates recession but we are slowly overcoming the situation. We have a long way to go but we have achieved a few things.

[Reporter] What other government goals are still to be achieved?

[Menem] I have just told you. We want to overcome the recession. We have begun our economic reactivation. We have to help develop the potential of the country's natural resources. We have to create wealth, accumulate wealth, to aid the situation of large sectors of our society. [end recording]

The president confirmed that utility rates will increase in the future but he added that the increases will take into account the cost of living and that salaries will also be adjusted to prevent a loss of purchasing power. [passage omitted]

Discards Debtors' Club Idea

PY1105213290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1846 GMT 11 May 90

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 11 May (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has discarded the idea of creating a Latin American debtors' club "until the region's integration is attained," and affirmed that until then, each nation "will individually negotiate its foreign debt" with the respective creditors.

The chief of state, who opened an international seminar on conversion of Argentina's foreign debt this morning, affirmed that the interest the government commits itself to pay to creditors "must allow for the balanced growth of the nation's economic activity."

In this regard, President Menem pointed out that his economic program is primarily directed at tackling the problems of "conversion of debt into investment, slow progress, capital flight for avoidance of risk, and inefficient competition."

In another passage of his speech, which elicited applause at several points, Menem indicated that "fiscal balance is indispensable so as not to create conditions for rekindling hyperinflation," but observed that "fiscal balance becomes an unreachable goal if our best productive energies are not released, deregulated, and liberated."

He affirmed that "the all-important issue of the foreign debt on our continent has for too long been addressed with fiery language and hollow slogans," and added that "we have insisted on failed and obsolete formulas that proved to be so detrimental to the national interests; we will not now make the same errors." [passage omitted]

Says No Cabinet Changes Planned

PY1405214290 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 May 90

[Excerpt] This morning President Menem rejected any possibility of imminent changes in his ministerial cabinet. Menem also confirmed that it is expected this month's inflation rate will have only one digit. Regarding the Pardon Law, the president believes that the second stage of its implementation, which relates to Jorge Videla, Emilio Massera, and Eduardo Firmenich, will occur before the end of the year. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Results of Paz Zamora Talks in U.S. Praised

PY1505032490 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 15 May 90

[Station editorial: "The Super Foreign Minister"]

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora has achieved in Washington far more than was expected by even the most optimistic. This was the prevailing impression among members of the presidential entourage following Paz Zamora's meeting with George Bush.

After this summit meeting, relations between the two countries have been different, particularly because Bush fully understood the meaning of the Bolivian position. The already famous personal charm of our president has again yielded positive results. Bush's laudatory remarks about President Paz Zamora speak for themselves. President Paz Zamora's intelligence, the coherent strategy for alternative development, and the progress in eradicating coca plantations have made Bolivia a country that truly deserves to receive aid, which will be substantially increased in 1991.

Bush invited Paz Zamora to dinner at his own residence. It is said in Washington that Bush does this on very rare occasions because thus far, he has invited only three guests to his residence: the Canadian prime minister, the FRG chancellor, and Paz Zamora.

Fear of the possible imposition of Armed Forces participation in the fight against the coca/cocaine trade proved to be unfounded. Despite an alarmist editorial in the

WASHINGTON POST which was read in Bolivia, by signing this agreement in Washington, Bolivia did not commit itself any further than it did when it signed the Cartagena agreement in February.

It [not further identified] said in fact that considering the Bolivian achievements in the economic field as well as in the coca eradication program, it seemed pointless to include the issue of the military involvement as a priority item on the agenda.

Reference to Armed Forces participation is included in an annex, but it states that that participation will be carried out at the time, and in the manner and place ordered by President Jaime Paz Zamora.

The document also refers to military aid and announces a large amount of assistance for the engineers' battalions. It seems that Robert Gelbard and William Bennett do not fully share George Bush's views on this subject. From now on, Gelbard will have to change his attitude because it is now known what Bush thinks regarding this subject.

Brazil

Collor, IDB President Discuss Aid Package

PY1505030490 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 May 90

[Report by George Van Burger]

[Text] The IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] has already established $559 million in financing for Brazil this year, and the bank wants to expand its cooperation by investing in three sectors; namely, industrial development, technology, and social programs.

This information was supplied by IDB President Enrique Iglesias after meeting with President Fernando Collor de Mello at the Planalto Palace. Iglesias expressed the IDB confidence in the Brazilian economic program and its interest in expanding IDB investments in the country.

Iglesias came along with an IBD mission to assess Brazil's funds requirements in addition to three projects that have already been defined; namely, a $253 million loan for the third power line of the Itaipu hydroelectric dam, a $250 million loan for industrial modernization projects through the BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development], and a $56 million loan for irrigation projects in the northeast. These funds will be matched with Japanese funds and the loans will be repaid in 25 years with an interest rate of eight percent per annum.

Last year, Brazil received $518 million and repaid $700 million to the IDB, a situation that must be reversed, according to the IDB president. As President Collor told him, the Brazilian Government's priorities are in the social area, especially in critical sectors such as health, housing, and sanitation.

To discuss the implementation of the new projects, Enrique Iglesias has already met with Social Action Minister Margarida Procopio, and he will meet with the health, economy, and infrastructure ministers.

Collor, Economy Minister Say Measures Working

PY1405140090 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello in Sao Paulo has guaranteed that government economic team is not considering a new package of measures and it has not lost control over liquidity. She said that on 16 March the government adopted a set of measures that made it possible to implement an adequate monetary and fiscal policy. Minister Cardoso de Mello denied that there is excess liquidity in the economy and reasserted that the situation is developing as initially expected.

President Fernando Collor has affirmed that there is no reason to fear that inflation will return. According to him, forecasts made public in recent days herald the success of the government economic program. He discussed the situation at the end of an 11 km bicycle ride around the southern lake of Brasilia. He affirmed that there is plenty of reason to celebrate.

[Begin Collor recording] We must note that about 15 days ago we deregulated all prices. The prices of essential products remained under control, but the prices of all other products were unfrozen. This means that the economy has reacted very well, that there has not been a surge of consumerism, that people are aware that their support—consuming less and spending carefully—is fundamental to keeping inflation under control. This is a good reason to celebrate. We have reached a point of equilibrium at which the rigorous program we have implemented is coexisting very well with economic activities. This means that those activities are taking place without the catastrophic recession or depression that was predicted a couple of weeks ago. What can be verified instead is that the economic activities are recovering rapidly, and the population is calm and confident that we are entering into a new era. [end recording]

250 Billion Cruzeiros Mistakenly Circulated

PY1405173890 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 May 90 p 32

[Report by Mariza Louven]

[Excerpts] Unwittingly, the government left open a faucet through which new cruzados frozen by the Central Bank leaked back as cruzeiros into the economy. According to calculations by the Economy Ministry, banks have by mistake allowed 250 billion cruzeiros over the ceiling established in the economic stabilization plan

to be overdrawn. These cruzeiros went into circulation only by mistake, without any evidence of fraud.

The government will order banks to return equivalent amounts to the Central Bank. Since the banks probably do not have new cruzados, they may have to pay cruzeiros to the Central Bank. [passage omitted]

Bank officials attributed the problem to the fact that the Central Bank had released the final instructions on how to handle withdrawals only at 2200 on 18 March, the day before the banks reopened. There was no time to change the computer programs, and some of the account transactions were made manually. [passage omitted]

Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Stand Unchanged

PY1505013690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 May 90

[Report by Gustavo Mariani from Itamaraty]

[Text] The NPT, the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, is an issue that does not intimidate Brazil (?although) it may be debated in Congress.

Meanwhile, the Brazilian position continues to consider the treaty restrictive, preventing nations from developing nuclear technology—even for peaceful uses.

This remark was made by Itamaraty spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel, who said that in a recent meeting in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did not make any demands to Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek regarding Brazil's signing the treaty.

Pimentel cited another example that prevents Brazil from changing its position on the nonproliferation treaty.

[Begin Pimentel recording] We are experiencing a situation in Brazil today in which the society can perfectly express its points of view, in which Congress, the representatives of society who are in Congress, can perfectly reassess a series of advantages.

If Brazilian society wants to change its position on nuclear energy, even for peaceful uses alone, (?and if) the National Congress (?supports) such a suggestion, we would have an entirely different position. [end recording]

In August, Brazil will participate in a NPT review conference in Vienna as an observer.

Blasting of Clandestine Landing Strips Continues

PY1505023090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 May 90

[Report by Andrea Tavares]

[Text] Fourteen landing strips have already been destroyed on the Yanomami Indian reservation in Roraima State.

This information was supplied by Federal Police Director General Romeu Tuma who added that the weather in that region has been stable, permitting blasting operations to be carried out normally, without delays.

According to Inspector Romeu Tuma, the Federal Police are now concerned about some strips that continue operating on the Indian reservation through injunctions filed by the prospectors, who own the strips, and approved by the courts.

[Begin Tuma recording] We are expecting action by the federal prosecutor. We have already talked to Dr. Aristides [not further specified]. Even the judge has already begun the proceedings. He asked the prosecutor to act, and he is conducting this with considerable interest so that the injunctions will be overturned; therefore, those strips are also listed for destruction. [end recording]

Inspector Romeu Tuma announced that 73 landing strips used by the prospectors were discovered on the Yanomami reservation.

Chile

Minister Denies Saying Cuba Supports Subversives

PY1405133090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has dismissed allegations that Cuba is supporting leftist guerrillas in Chile. The minister denied reports from Miami which misquoted him on the issue. Krauss made these remarks at the airport upon returning from a visit he made to the United States following his attendence at Costa Rica's presidential inauguration. Krauss said his alleged remarks linking Cuba with what is happening in the country are totally false.

[Begin recording] [Krauss] I have never said that. My remarks were aired on two television channels from Miami and Mexico and were published in local newspapers. I am carrying some of the papers in my luggage. I have never said that Cuba, or any foreign country, is involved with terrorism in Chile today. All those statements are false.

[Reporter] Do you deny then that Cuba is in anyway involved in helping Chilean guerrillas?

[Krauss] We do not have any indication of Cuban involvement in incidents in Chile today. [end recording]

Krauss said that Cuban foreign policy in the past was to support guerrilla movements in Latin America, but he added that he does not have any indication that the same policy is still in effect today. Asked about the resumption of relations with Cuba, Krauss said there was no hurry and that the Foreign Ministry is studying the matter.

[Begin Krauss recording] We do not have to hurry. We have to study the matter carefully. The Foreign Ministry is analyzing the issue. We are not in any particular hurry. [end recording]

Krauss said the report distorting his statement was possibly due to excessive Cuban or Latin enthusiasm.

Pardon Law Promulgated, Will Benefit Thousands

PY1405201990 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] The pardon law has become effective, however, it but will not benefit those convicted of kidnapping, theft with violence, molestation [abusos deshonestos], rape, and homicide. The pardon law that is published in the OFFICIAL GAZZETTE today benefits 3,076 prisoners and 1,731 people on parole.

Of that number, only 724 prisoners will be set free today, and 207 people on parole will be given full freedom. The original bill submitted to Congress by the executive branch would have granted freedom to some 2,000 prisoners, but Congress added a number of crimes for which pardon cannot be granted, thereby reducing the number of prisoners who can be freed.

The government is now studying a new bill to be sent to Congress in coming months. The bill will treat situations that are not contemplated in this pardon law.

Colombia

President Rules Out Dialogue With Drug Lords

PA1405191290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] President Barco this morning said that after the weekend car-bomb explosions in Bogota and Cali, there will be no dialogue with criminals and drug traffickers of the so-called drug cartels.

The Barco government today confirmed its determination not to hold dialogue with the narco-terrorists, whom it labels psychopathic. Referring to the 12 May attacks, which left 29 people dead and more than 100 wounded, the president asked for Colombians' solidarity to face the violence.

He said that the entire nation should unite to defeat violence.

The president made these statements at a ceremony in which the University of Korea bestowed the Medal of Honor on him.

[Begin recording] [Barco] All Colombians protests these attacks. They are acting in an inhuman way, killing innocent people right and left.

[Reporter] Should we hold dialogue with the drug traffickers?

[Barco] They have no qualms about killing people who have nothing to do with all of this. They are psychopaths. [end recording]

Candidates' Views on Fighting Narcoterrorism

PA1505030690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0003 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Bogota, 14 May (AFP)—Political observers in this city said on Monday, 14 May, following the explosion of three car bombs on Saturday, 12 May, in Bogota and Cali leaving 29 persons dead and 178 injured, narcoterrorism has become the main challenge for the next president of Colombia who will be elected on 27 May.

The four main presidential candidates have different views on how the executive branch should handle the drug traffickers' violent offensive.

"Colombia has no other option but to confront narcoterrorism," and "drug trafficking must be attacked with a world-level strategy," said the ruling party's Cesar Gaviria, the man the polls show as the favorite to occupy the presidential chair as of 7 August.

Gaviria, a former minister in President Virgilio Barco's government, believes that narcoterrorism and drug trafficking are "different phenomena that must be handled separately."

Narcoterrorism, he said, is Colombia's responsibility, and he suggested strengthening the intelligence and police corps and the judicial system to attack it successfully.

"However, drug trafficking is the world's responsibility," he added.

Gaviria, who succeeded assassinated Senator Luis Carlos Galan as presidential candidate, said that a dialogue with the narcoterrorists is not possible.

Opposition candidate and Social Conservative Rodrigo Lloreda has repeatedly expressed his intentions of accepting the surrender offered by the drug traffickers in January.

Lloreda, who held the office of foreign minister during the past government, announced that if he becomes president he would "suspend the extraditions" and strengthen justice for the drug traffickers to be tried in the country. He also criticized Barco's persistence in upholding the concept of extradition and has accused him of "giving in" to U.S. pressures.

Even though Lloreda has said that he would accept the drug traffickers' surrender, he has not said whether he is willing to talk to them regarding the terms of their surrender and how they would do it.

According to Alvaro Gomez, another Conservative Party candidate who is running for the National Salvation Movement, "narcoterrorism is basically an economic problem."

Gomez believes that it will not be possible to win the war against the drug traffickers as long as those criminals have huge amounts of money at their disposal.

Following the conservative line, Gomez has proposed a strategy that would reduce the margin of profit the drug traffickers receive from the cocaine sold on U.S. streets. This strategy must be complemented with what Gomez called the "power of the law," that is, by strengthening justice and "letting the army do its work."

Even though he does not believe in extradition, Gomez does not feel that the alternative is to sit down and talk with the drug traffickers.

The political analysts have said that the National Salvation Movement candidate would make a "strong hand" government.

Antonio Navarro Wolff, the four presidential candidate and representative of the former M-19 [19 April Movement] leftist guerrilla, does not believe in extradition.

Navarro Wolff, who became a presidential candidate after the assassination of former rebel leader Carlos Pizarro, said that he is willing to talk "with everyone." This would include the drug traffickers.

However, the former rebel agrees with his electoral rivals on the need for the new government to strengthen the judicial system. The judicial system is strongly blamed for the fact that "narcoterrorism" has gone unpunished.

Medellin Members Arrested; Equipment Seized

PA1505045190 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Bogota— A public judge recently issued a preventive arrest warrant against Cundinamarca regional subcommander Jorge Noe Barreto Rodriguez, who is in the service of the so-called Medellin Cartel's intelligence network. The arrest warrant was issued by the public judge during the investigation being carried out following the discovery of the Medellin cartel's intelligence network, which was dismantled two months ago in Bogota by Dijin [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations] agents during Operation Onyx, which included the arrest of 12 persons.

Jorge Noe Barreto Rodriguez was arrested by the authorities in an apartment located west of the capital in the course of 49 raids carried out by 13th Brigade members and Dijin agents. During the operations carried out in several areas of Bogota, the agents discovered secret DAS [Administrative Department of Security], 13th Brigade, and National Police documents outlining the operations that would be carried out against alleged members of the Medellin Cartel and the late Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha.

The intelligence network at the service of organized crime had modern communications equipment used to evade the actions of the secret state and police organizations and telephone lines and high frequency portable radios for contacting any area of the country. The authorities also seized several computers, a large amount of ammunition for assorted caliber weapons, two new automobiles, and 50 portable radios.

The authorities arrested Eduardo Bautista Ortiz, or Petete, presumably the chief of the Bogota regional command; Luis Alberto Gomez Guzman; Guillermo Rodriguez Ortiz; and Manuel Benitez Sierra, or Gurigiuri, a radio operator working for the intelligence network in Cundinamarca. The judge in charge of the case has issued arrest warrants against six persons in connection with these criminal actions, based on the evidence gathered by his office.

15 Policemen Killed in Bogota Over Last 6 Days

PA1405234690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Metropolitan policemen cannot even escape death while off duty or when dressed as civilians. The last three officers killed were not in uniform, but their attackers knew that they were connected with the police. That is why they were murdered.

On the evening of 13 May, 22 year old Jose Luis Santana Marin and 24 year old Alveiro de Jesus Gomez were killed. One was killed in El Rincon Belen neighborhood and the other in La Cumbre neighborhood in Bello Municipality. They were both close to their homes and attacked by two armed men.

This morning 24 year old Jose Florian Ibarguen was added to the list as he was riding in a Copetransa Company bus in the Santo Domingo neighborhood. He was shot by a man inside the bus who later calmly got off.

Fifteen policemen have been killed in the last six days. Again, uncertainty and fear fill the hearts of the policemen of this region of the country, where it is estimated that two policemen die every 24 hours.

The Police chapel has been turned into a funeral parlor where the bodies of the policemen killed each day amid this continuing wave of violence are sent.

Ecuador

Soviet Ship Seized in Territorial Waters

PA1505002090 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] A Soviet ship and its crew have been seized and charged with illegally fishing and carrying out research in Ecuadoran territorial waters. The Soviet ship was manned by five officers, 37 crew members, and five Peruvian researchers on an unknown mission.

The 1st Naval Zone's headquarters announced the capture and added that the Soviets, Peruvians, and their

ship were taken to Puerto Bolivar for investigation since the crew did not have the necessary documents or meet the requirements established by law to operate in Ecuadoran territorial waters.

Authors To Reveal Names in Roldos 'Assassination'

PA1505010990 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2320 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Ernesto Buenano and Jaime Galarza, authors of the books "Planned Crime" and "Who Killed Roldos," are scheduled to testify on Tuesday, 15 May, before the Congress' multiparty commission that is investigating the death of former President Jaime Roldos Aguilera.

Ernesto Buenano said that in tomorrow's meeting he will reveal the names of those involved in Jaime Roldos Aguilera's death, and he will present the necessary documents. He also requested that the commission meeting be held in public.

[Begin Buenano recording] We want to thank reporters like you because we have been struggling for eight years. We have dedicated eight years to investigating President Roldos' accident, and it was not until today that we were summoned to testify before the multiparty commission.

This struggle [words indistinct] is nothing but a result of the efforts exerted by many reporters like you, who have helped us so selflessly and who have not tried to withhold the information. I believe that this deserves praise and I am grateful for this.

In regard to what we will say tomorrow, we will prove to the country that the so-called human failure [which reportedly caused the accident] is a lie. Second, we will prove how the CIA acts on the international level; who its agents are in Ecuador and their names; and what caused the presidential plane crash, which we have termed a homicide. We will tell the country who the main political conspirator was against President Roldos. We will prove this with documents because we will not be talking about [words indistinct]. We will reveal what this political conspirator said before the president's death and after his assassination. [end recording]

Peru

Vargas Llosa Comments on Campaign Financing

PY1405222090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 May 90

[Interview with presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa by unidentified reporters at the National Congress in Lima—live]

[Text] [Vargas LLosa] The financing of the electoral campaign is being investigated. I told the members of the congressional committee that I appeared before them as a demonstration of respect for the Senate. However, I wanted to make clear that I had objections about the timing of the creation of this investigating committee. It would have been better for this committee to have started operating after the conclusion of the electoral process which is still going on. Now, putting aside the good intention of the Senate committee members, this committee and the information the committee obtains can be used as a political tool which could disrupt the electoral process. It could also cause the National Congress to intervene in a way that would cast doubt upon that institution's impartiality.

[Question indistinct]?

[Vargas Llosa] Regarding my own actions, I also told the committee that I established a code of conduct for myself when the political activities of the Democratic Front began. I was determined not to receive any information from the Democratic Front people entrusted with managing campaign donations or about the identity of the militants and sympathizers of the front who contributed to the electoral campaign. I believed it was very important for a man who wants to be president not to know who contributed or how much was contributed for the campaign because this can have a psychological effect which is not good if a president wants to be completely impartial in his administration. Therefore, this is what I told the committee. I also told the committee that there is no legislation in Peru forcing political parties or organizations to make public their financing or the identity of the contributors. Considering the fact that there is no obligation in this regard, the Democratic Front which does not have anything to hide, which practices the policy of truth, will disclose how much money was spent in the electoral campaign after the elections are over, once the final electoral results are known.

[Reporter] Do you admit that $12 million was spent?

[Vargas LLosa] The electoral process is still going on, therefore, donations are still being made. I can categorically say that the Democratic Front never used public resources of any kind in this electoral campaign because that would really be a crime according to a judicial system. Also the Democratic Front never received any contributions from a foreign government. As I said we are going to disclose the amount spent in the campaign after the elections are over.

Guyana

Marxist Party Requests Caricom Election Support

FL1505002790 Bridgetown CANA in English 2224 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 14 May (CANA)—Leader of Guyana's opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), Dr. Cheddi Jagan, has sent letters to Caribbean heads of government on the issue of "free and fair elections" in Guyana. In a statement released here, the Marxist-Leninist party said Dr. Jagan also recently made

representations to foreign ministers of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and to Guyana President Desmond Hoyte.

According to the statement, Dr. Jagan has requested the support of a Caricom observer team for the coming general elections here. The elections must be held by early next year, and the PPP said Dr. Jagan made the request to Caribbean leaders in view of "private assurances" given to them by Hoyte that he intended to invite observers from Caricom.

The party said Dr. Jagan raised what he described as "justifiable fears" that the elections will not reflect the will of the Guyanese people and he contended that the plight of Guyana cannot be unrelated to what he called the lack of democracy and the denial of free and fair elections which "though generally recognised, do not invoke in our Caribbean counterparts the outcry they deserve."

The Guyana Government has repeatedly rejected opposition claims of election-rigging here.